

# THUNDER

READ IT...and you'll be THUNDER-STRUCK!

8<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
NEW  
PENCE

## FAMOUS FIRSTS

TO DECIDE WHICH WAS THE MOST PRACTICAL LOCOMOTIVE FOR USE ON THE NEW LIVERPOOL-TO-MANCHESTER RAILWAY, A TRIAL WAS HELD AT NEARBY RAINHILL IN 1829. THREE ENGINES TOOK PART... THE "NOVELTY", THE "SANS PAREIL" AND THE "ROCKET". BUILT BY GEORGE AND ROBERT STEPHENSON, THE NOW-FAMOUS "ROCKET" PROVED NOT ONLY TO BE THE FASTEST, TRAVELLING AT OVER 29 MILES AN HOUR, BUT ALSO THE MOST EFFICIENT LOCOMOTIVE! IT WENT ON WORKING FOR EIGHT YEARS, AND IS NOW IN THE SCIENCE MUSEUM IN LONDON.



TODAY, STEAM-LOCOMOTIVES HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE RAILWAYS OF BRITAIN. MODERN TRAINS ARE EITHER ELECTRIC OR DIESEL-ELECTRIC, AND ONE OF THE FINEST DIESEL ENGINES IS THE NAPIER "DELTA". TWO OF THESE 18-CYLINDER DIESEL ENGINES ARE USED IN THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC 3,300 HORSE-POWER LOCOMOTIVE WHICH PULLS THE FAMOUS "FLYING SCOTSMAN" TRAIN. WHEN FIRST INTRODUCED IN THE 1950s, THIS WAS THE MOST POWERFUL SINGLE-UNIT DIESEL-ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE IN THE WORLD.



WHEN DAWN COMES, THE BAT STRIKES!



WHEN WORLD WAR ONE AIR ACE, BARON MAXIMILIEN VON KLORR, KNOWN AS 'BLACK MAX', RETURNED TO THE WESTERN FRONT, HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A NIGHTMARISH GIANT-BAT TRAINED TO TEAR BRITISH PLANES FROM THE SKY. ONLY TIM WILSON OF THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS KNEW HIS SECRET. BUT WHEN HE CRASHED IN A WOOD BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES, BLACK MAX AND HIS KILLER-BAT CAME TO HUNT AND DESTROY HIM, AND THEY SEEMED TO HAVE SUCCEEDED...



BLACK MAX GRINNED EVILLY AS HE CLIMBED INTO HIS SPECIALLY-BUILT TRIPLANE...





A handwriting teacher in California for 40 years was named Minnie Penman.

CRUEL FATE HAD BROUGHT TIM TO THE VERY JAGSTAFFEL COMMANDED BY BARON MAXIMILIEN VON KLORR...



AND A SECOND LATER...



STILL FIGHTING FOR CONTROL, BLACK MAX WAVED A TREMBLING HAND...



BUT AS SOON AS HE WAS ALONE...



MORG WAS THE BARON'S FAITHFUL SERVANT...



A SUDDEN CLICK JERKED TIM FROM AN UNEASY SLEEP...



OUTSIDE, ONE OF THE JAGSTAFFEL FOKKERS WAS BEING WARMED UP...



A MINUTE LATER...



CONTINUED OVERLEAF...



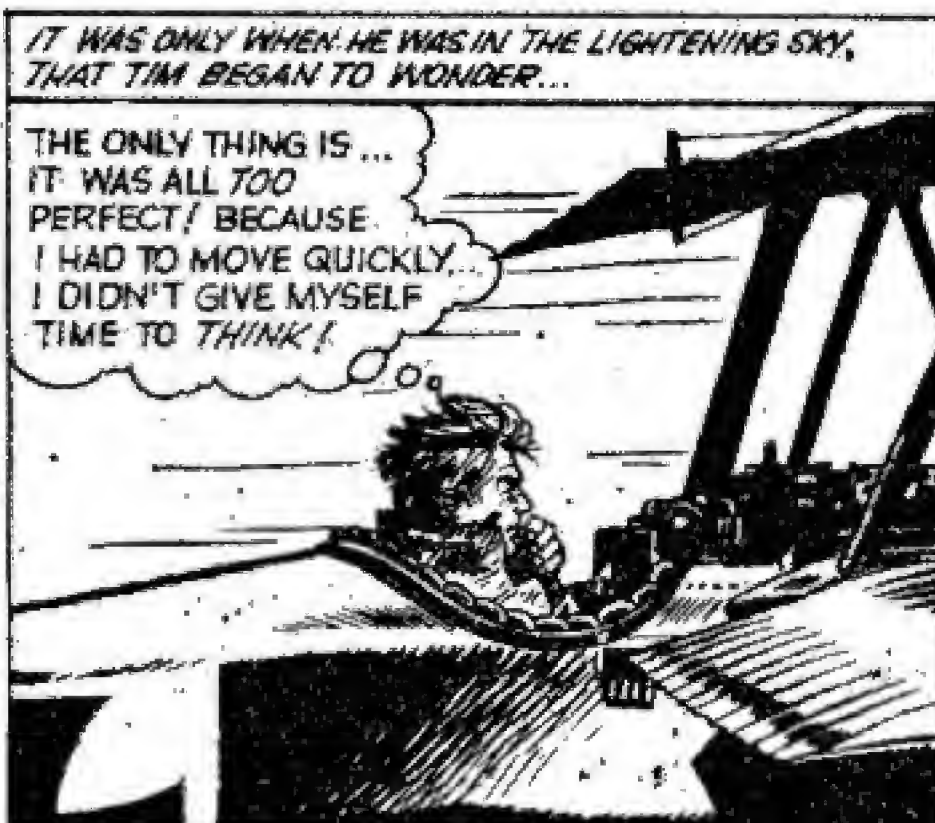
Pierre Etchebaster of France was World Tennis Champion for 27 years:



THEN...

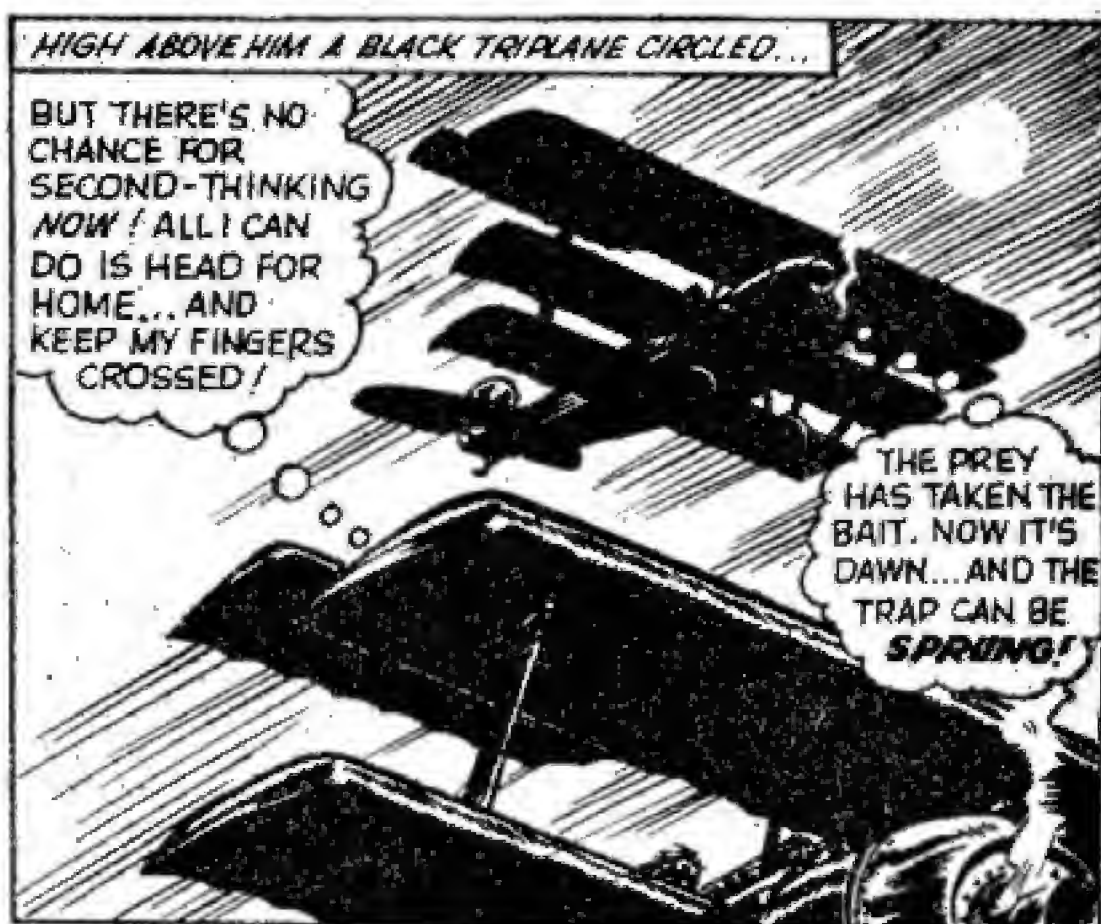
THE PRISONER HAS ESCAPED!

THE DAWN IS ALMOST HERE, MASTER! I HAVE DONE AS YOU ASKED!



IT WAS ONLY WHEN HE WAS IN THE LIGHTENING SKY, THAT TIM BEGAN TO WONDER...

THE ONLY THING IS ... IT WAS ALL TOO PERFECT! BECAUSE I HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY! I DIDN'T GIVE MYSELF TIME TO THINK!



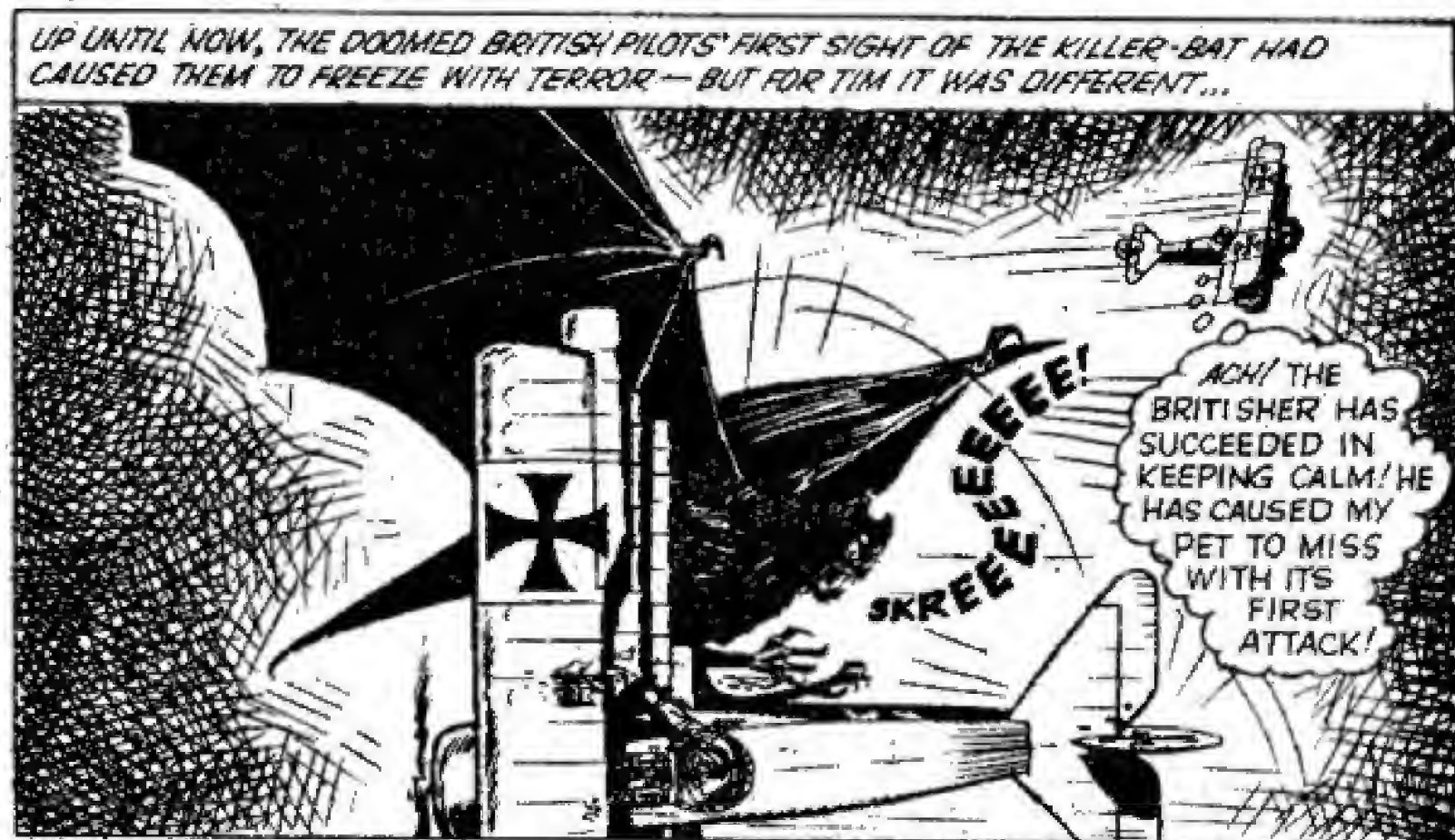
BUT THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR SECOND-THINKING NOW! ALL I CAN DO IS HEAD FOR HOME... AND KEEP MY FINGERS CROSSED!

THE PREY HAS TAKEN THE BAIT. NOW IT'S DAWN... AND THE TRAP CAN BE SPRUNG!



SKREEEEEEEE!

THE BAT MONSTER! SO THE WHOLE THING WAS SET UP! HE WAS UP HERE... WAITING FOR ME!



UP UNTIL NOW, THE DOOMED BRITISH PILOTS' FIRST SIGHT OF THE KILLER-BAT HAD CAUSED THEM TO FREEZE WITH TERROR — BUT FOR TIM IT WAS DIFFERENT...

SKREEEEEEEE!

ACH! THE BRITISHER HAS SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING CALM! HE HAS CAUSED MY PET TO MISS WITH ITS FIRST ATTACK!



BUT NO AIRCRAFT CAN CONTINUE TO BETTER A LIVING CREATURE OF FLIGHT! FOR THE BRITISHER THE END IS... INEVITABLE!

EEEEEEEEK!

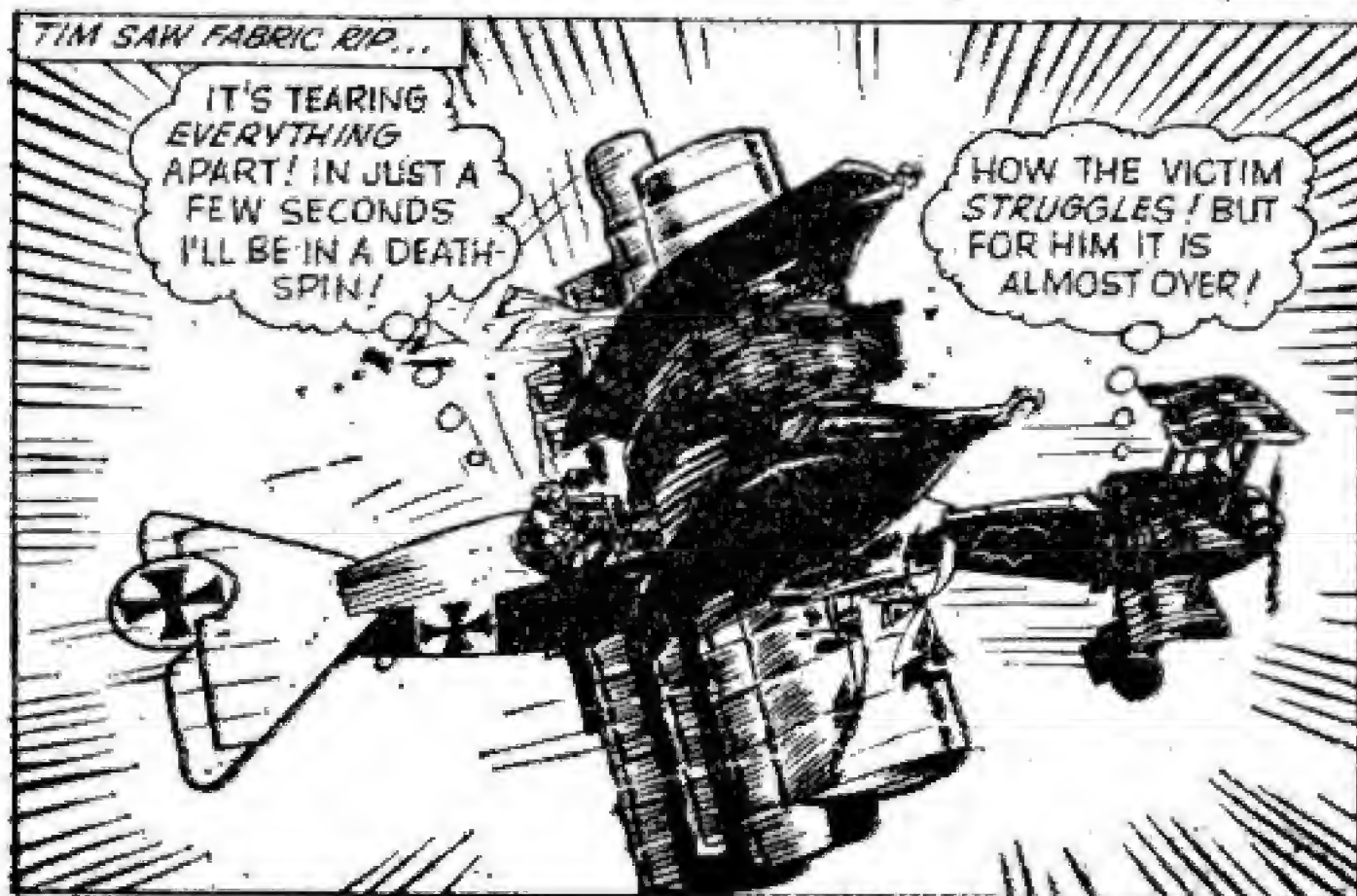
IT'S TURNING IN TOO FAST! I... CAN'T DODGE IT THIS TIME!



THEN...

IT'S ON TO ME! I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHAKE IT OFF!

THIS IS WORTH A CLOSER LOOK... HEE-HEE!



TIM SAW FABRIC RIP...

IT'S TEARING EVERYTHING APART! IN JUST A FEW SECONDS I'LL BE IN A DEATH-SPIN!

HOW THE VICTIM STRUGGLES! BUT FOR HIM IT IS ALMOST OVER!



THEN BLACK MAX, TOO, SAW WINGED DEATH HURTLE TOWARDS HIM...

DONNERWETTER! HE - HE IS GOING TO CRASH INTO ME!

ALL RIGHT! THERE MAY BE NO HOPE FOR ME NOW! BUT ONE THING I CAN DO... IS TAKE YOU WITH ME!

MORE OF THIS THRILLING YARN IN NEXT WEEK'S GREAT ISSUE!



ADAM UNDER ARREST—FOR CRIMES HE DID NOT COMMIT!



# ADAM ETERNO

SINCE THE 16th CENTURY, ADAM ETERNO HAD BEEN WANDERING THROUGH TIME, SEARCHING FOR THE ONLY THING WHICH COULD RELEASE HIM FROM THE CURSE OF EVER-LASTING LIFE - A FATAL BLOW FROM A WEAPON OF PURE GOLD. BUT ADAM'S CRUEL FATE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A NEW AND DRAMATIC TURN... AS A SHRILL, TERRIFYING CRY RANG THROUGH THE FOG-WREATHED STREETS OF VICTORIAN LONDON!

THE DREAD NAME RANG OUT AGAIN, AND AGAIN... ECHOED BY FRANTIC PASSERS-BY AS THEY TOOK TO THEIR HEELS!



RUN... GET OFF THE STREETS! THE FLYING FOOTPAD HAS STRUCK AGAIN!

THE TENTH ROBBERY THIS WEEK! WILL WE NEVER BE FREE FROM HIS MERCILESS ATTACKS..?



AAAAHHHH!

AH-AH-HEE-OOOOO!

M-MERCY SAVE US... WE ARE DOOMED! 'TIS THE FLYING FOOTPAD!

BLINDED BY FEAR, NONE OF THE FLEEING PEOPLE NOTICED THE WRITHING, GLOWING SHAPE THAT WAS EMERGING FROM THE MIST...



HELP! POLIIIIICE!

THOSE... CRIES! WHAT IS HAPPENING? TO WHAT BEDLAM ON EARTH DOOTH THE HAND OF DESTINY LEAD ME THIS TIME..?

... A SHAPE THAT MATERIALISED INTO THE GAUNT FIGURE OF... ADAM ETERNO!



BUT ONE GLANCE AT THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE IS ENOUGH! THEIR VERY CLOTHING TELLS ME THAT I HAVE ARRIVED IN LONDON... DURING THE DAYS OF VICTORIA!



AYEEEEEEEE!

... A LONDON THAT REEKS OF FEAR AND VIOLENCE! I CANNOT PASS ON UNTIL I HAVE DISCOVERED ITS CAUSE!

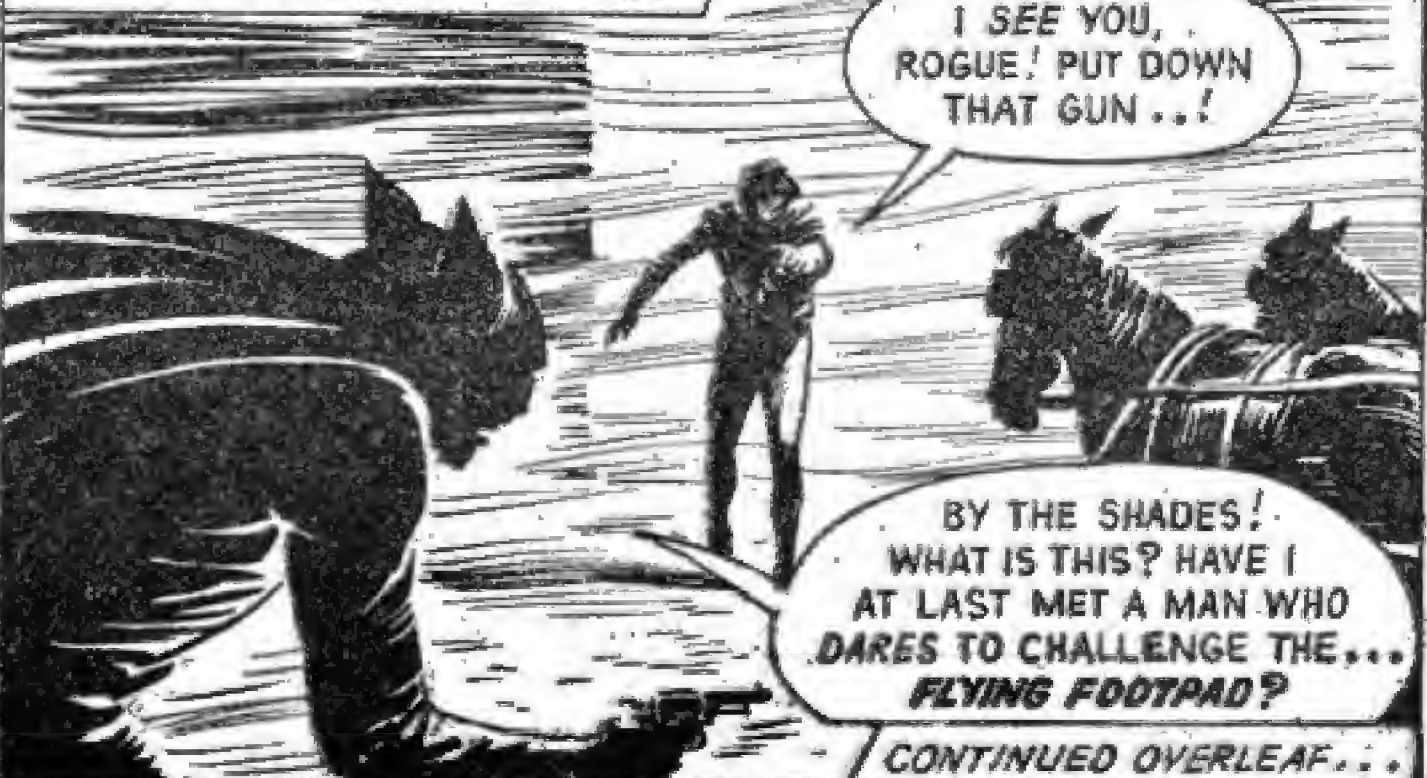
A LAST, GASPING FIGURE FLED PAST ADAM AS HE STUMBLED AROUND A CORNER - AND SAW...



THAT'S IT... EMPTY YOUR POCKETS! I WANT EVERYTHING OF VALUE...

SO... A ROBBERY! AND NO ONE LIFTS A FINGER TO AID ITS HELPLESS VICTIMS!

ADAM ETERNO DIDN'T HESITATE!



I SEE YOU, ROGUE! PUT DOWN THAT GUN...

BY THE SHADES! WHAT IS THIS? HAVE I AT LAST MET A MAN WHO DARES TO CHALLENGE THE... FLYING FOOTPAD?

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

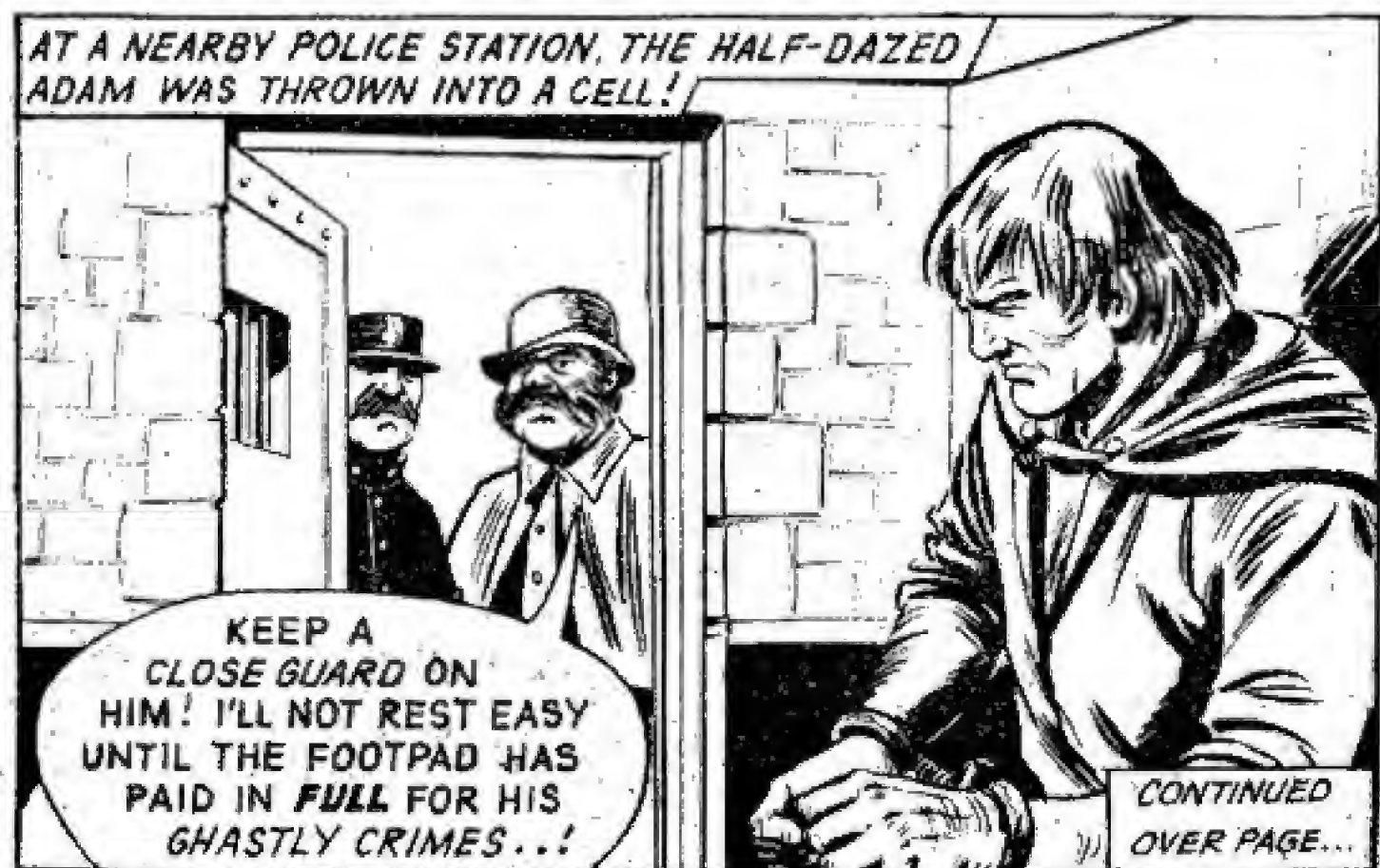
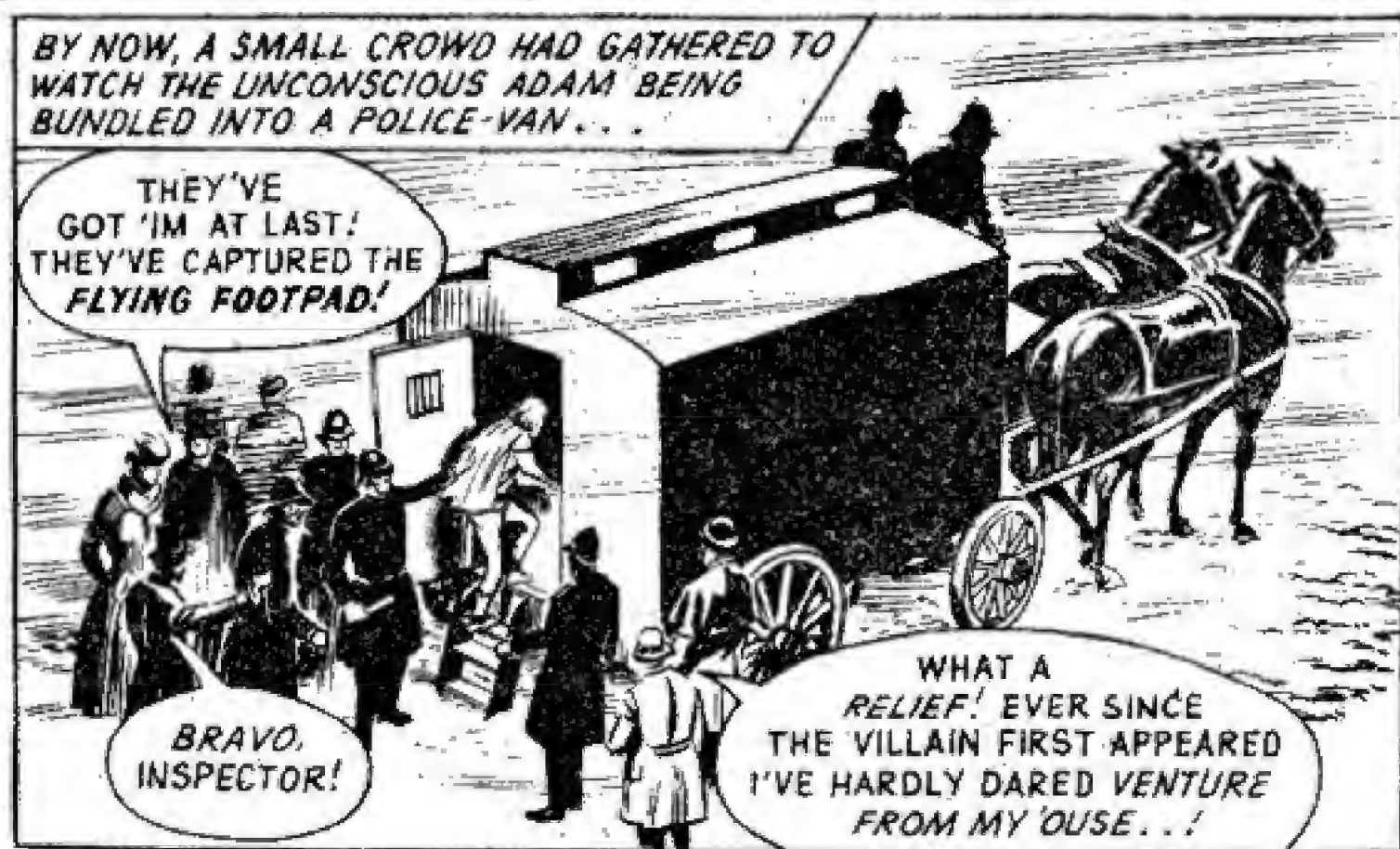


Ants actually keep 'pets'; insects commonly called green-fly.



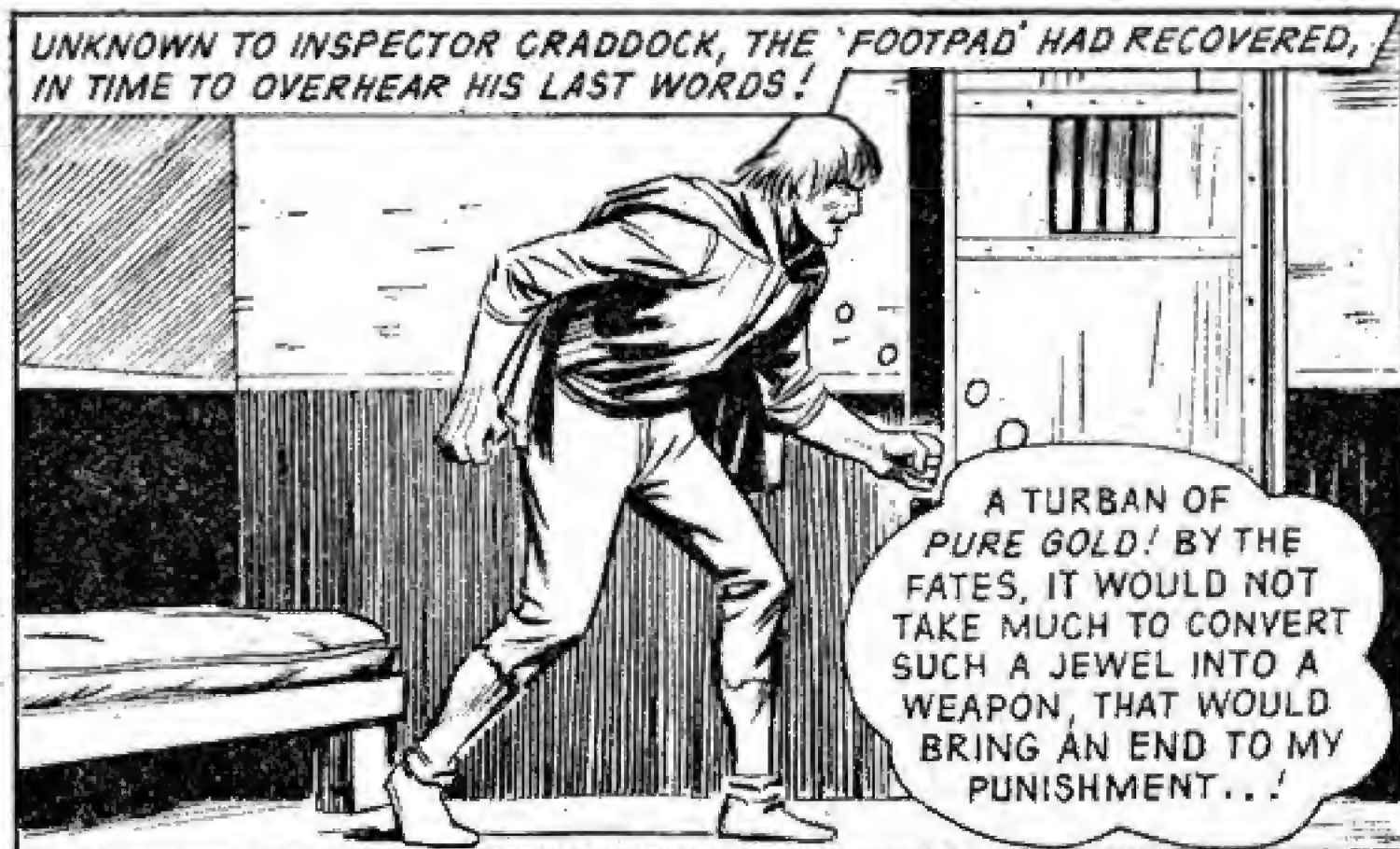
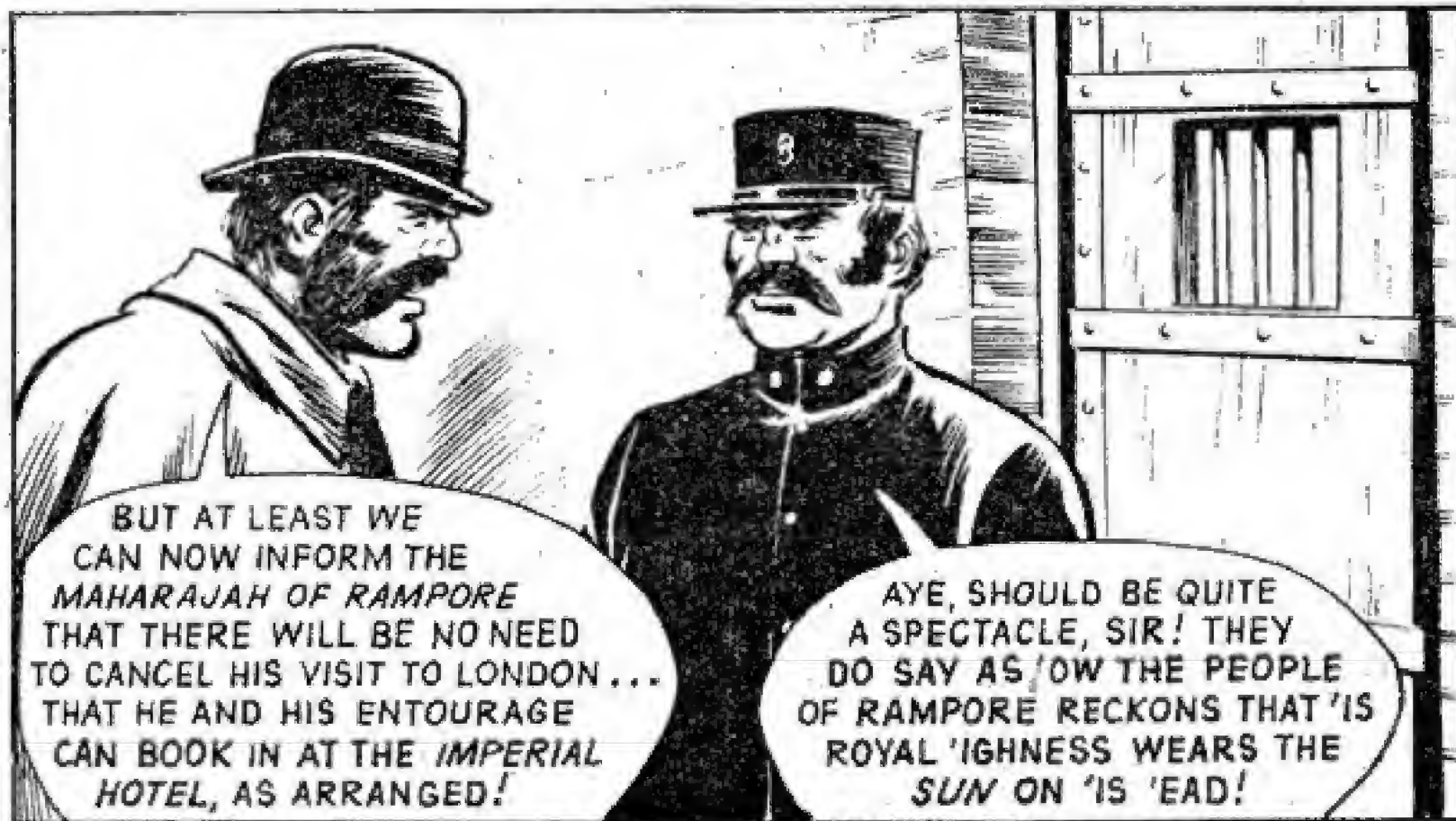


There are worms which actually live in snow and ice.





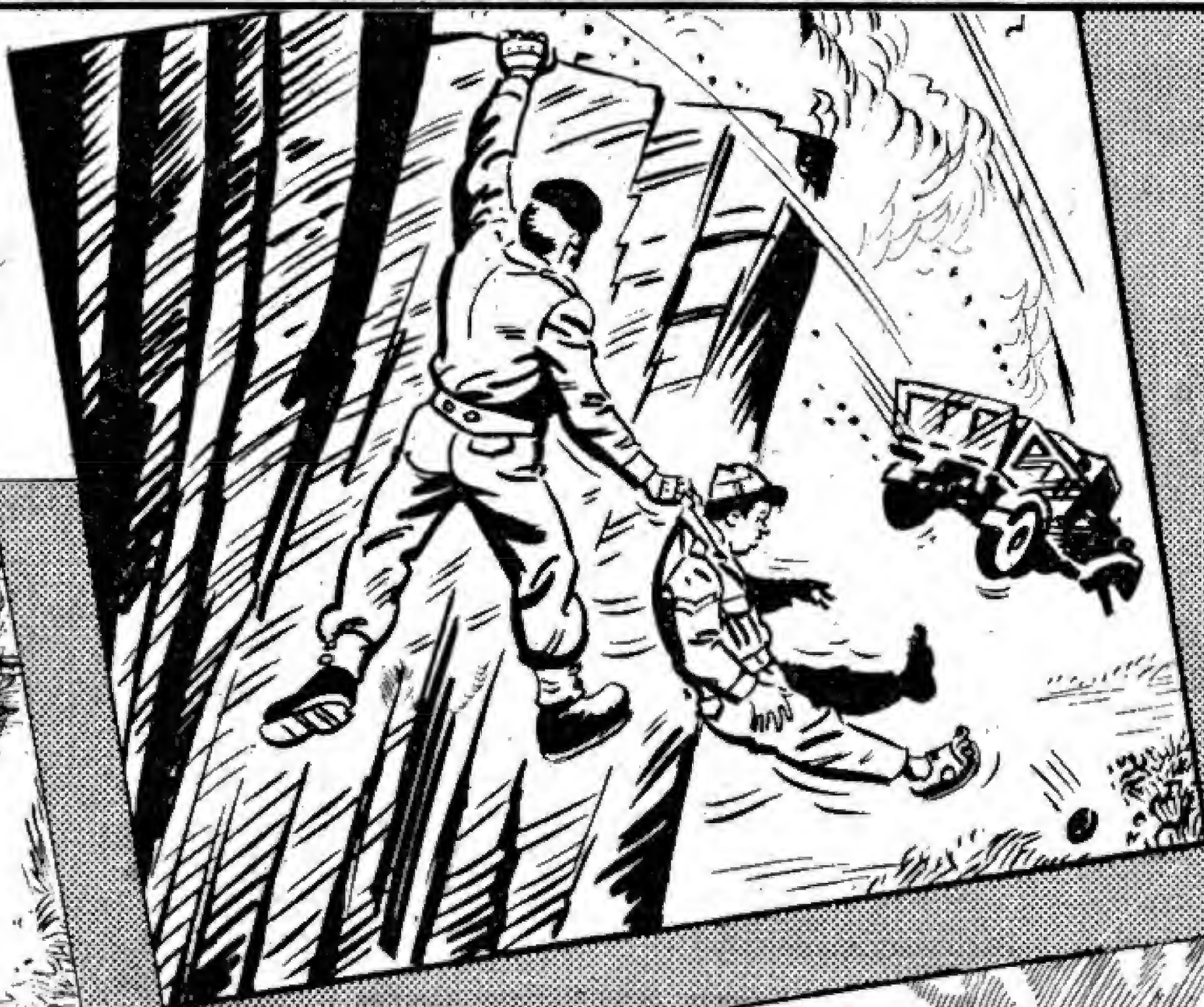
There was once a craze in America for being first one across a new bridge.





**KKRRASH!**

AND ERNIE BATES AND  
HIS MATE, THE STEEL  
COMMANDO, ARE IN  
TROUBLE!



**RRRUUMMBLE!**

AND CLIFF HANGER  
AND KUKRI ARE IN  
DEADLY PERIL!



**RRRAARRGH!**

AND FURY'S PALS,  
CHIEFTAIN AND  
TIKKA, GO INTO THE  
**ATTACK!**

ALL IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "**THUNDER**"—  
WHERE THERE ARE MANY MORE THRILLS TO  
BE HAD... AND MUCH **MORE** EXCITEMENT!

**THUNDER**

**EVERY MONDAY**



**DANGER LURKS FOR THE TWO PALS IN THE 'TEMPLE OF MAGIC'!**

# CLIFF HANGER



MEET THE ADVENTURE TRAIL WITH GLOBE-ROAMING CAPTAIN CLIFF HANGER AND HIS BLADE-THROWING GURKHA PAL KUKRI! SHARE WITH THEM THEIR MOMENTS OF BREATHLESS PERIL! SEE IF YOU, TOO, CAN FIND A WAY OUT WHEN ESCAPE SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE!

AT A POLICE CONTROL CENTRE IN RURAL ENGLAND, A RADIO OPERATOR, HIS FACE TENSE WITH EXCITEMENT, CALLED OUT...

CHIEF INSPECTOR! I'VE GOT CAPTAIN CLIFF HANGER ON THE WAVELENGTH!

WE'VE FINALLY FOUND THE MAGICIAN'S HIDE-OUT! KUKRI AND I ARE GOING UP THERE NOW. YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR BLOKES OVER HERE AS QUICK AS YOU CAN! HERE'S WHERE IT IS...

AFTER THEY HAD PUT THE CALL THROUGH, THE TWO ADVENTURERS MOVED IN CLOSER...

'THE TEMPLE OF MAGIC', HE ONCE CALLED IT! WELL, HE'LL NEED A TOUCH OF MAGIC IF HE'S TO ESCAPE FROM US THIS TIME!

IF HE STILL THERE, FRIEND CLIFF! THE MAGICIAN IS VERY CUNNING CRIMINAL! KUKRI THINK WE NOT TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!

WELL, THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED! MAYBE HE HAS GONE, KUKRI!

WE SOON KNOW, CAPTAIN CLIFF!

SUDDENLY, AS THEY TROD WARILY INTO A HUGE GROUND-FLOOR ROOM...

THE GONG! IT BEATS! YET NO ONE TOUCH IT!

CC-CCLAAASH

MUST BE ONE OF THE MAGICIAN'S MANY TRICKS!

THEN, AS THE LIGHTING DIMMED...

YOU, WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE... I BID YOU - WELCOME!

CLIFF... LOOK!

GRIEF! WHAT IS IT?

KUKRI'S GLITTERING BLADE FLEW FROM HIS HAND... CLIFF HANGER'S REVOLVER SPAT FLAME - BUT...

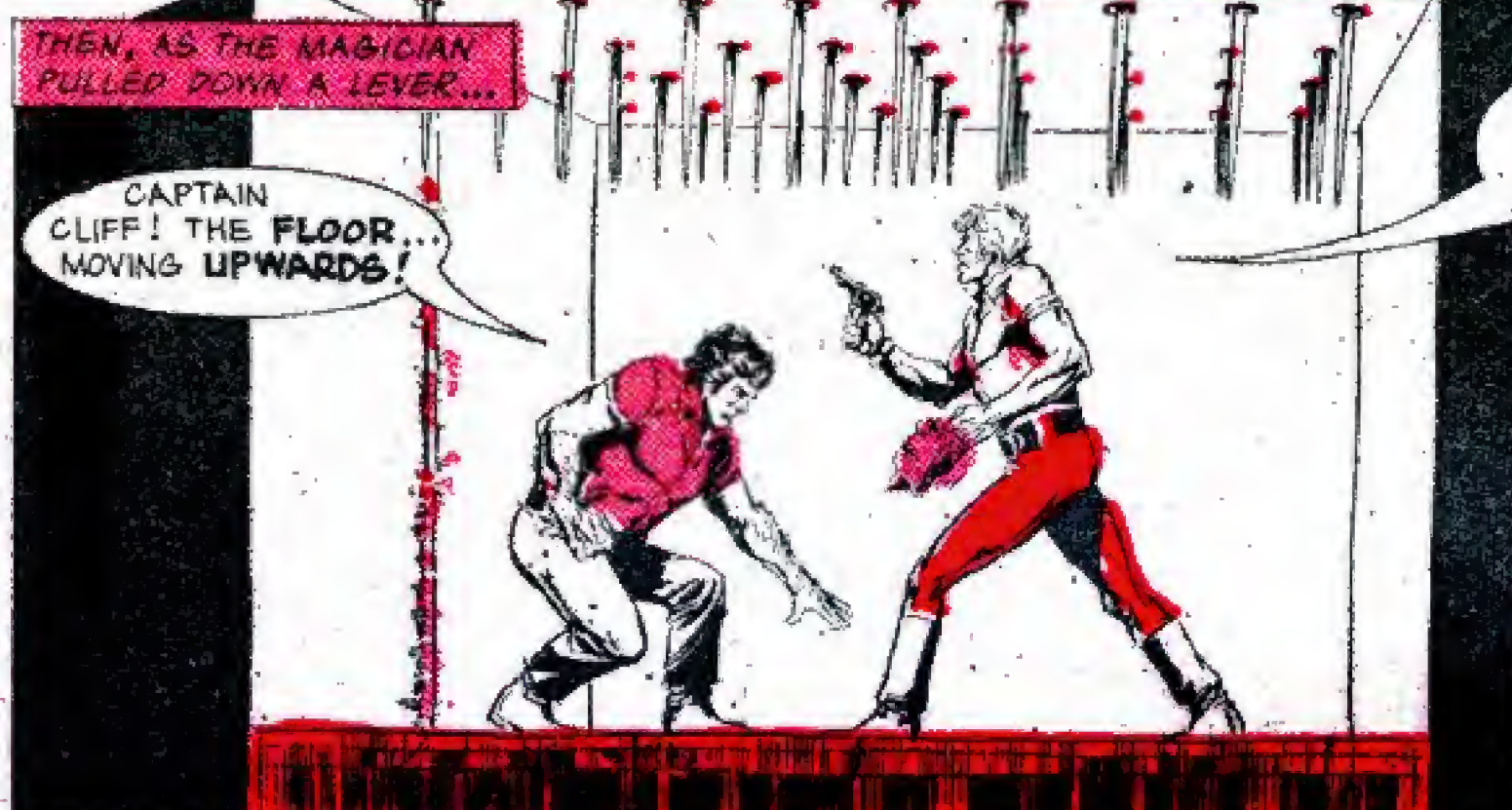
FOOLS! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN VANQUISH... ME?

AARGH! HE IS DEVIL! HE STILL UNHURT!

NO, KUKRI! IT'S A TRICK. IT MUST BE!



A man who complained his pocket had been picked was named Albert Pocket.





# Ned Kelly's last words were 'Such is life'!





# THE WILD BOY IS CAGED LIKE AN ANIMAL!

## Fury's Family



LEAVING THE CIRCUS THEY DETESTED, THE BOY CALLED FURY AND HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS TOOK REFUGE IN A HIDDEN MOUNTAIN VALLEY. FINDING A WOUNDED DEER, FURY SET OFF ALONE TO SEE WHAT HAD ATTACKED IT... AND WAS SET ON BY A PACK OF BLOOD-MAD STAG HOUNDS!

G-GOOD GRIEF! IT- IT'S A BOY!

THEY'VE KILLED HIM!



BUT TO THE HUNTSMEN'S RELIEF...

THANK THE STARS! PUT HIM ON A HORSE. WE'D BETTER GET HIM TO A DOCTOR!

UHHH! MY-MY HEAD!



WAIT! THE DOGS DIDN'T SAVAGE HIM FOR NOTHING! HE'S GOT THAT STAG'S SCENT ON HIM. BY GAD!

UGH! FURY... FOUND HORNED ONE... WOUNDED!



CAPTAIN JACKMAN, MASTER OF THE DEER-HOUNDS, GAVE A BELLOW OF TRIUMPH...

AT OUR MERCY, BY THUNDER! LEAD US TO HIM, BOY... DOGS NO USE NOW YOU'VE SMOTHERED THE TRAIL, WHAT?

YOU - YOU WISH TO KILL HORNED ONE?



STEADY, JACKMAN. WE'VE GOT TO THINK OF THIS KID FIRST...

GAH! NONSENSE! FELLOW'S FIT AS A FIDDLE. I WANT THAT CONFOUNDED STAG!



FURY WILL GIVE YOU NO HELP! TO HUNT A TERRIFIED ANIMAL WITH SAVAGE DOGS IS WRONG!

JACKMAN EXPLODED WITH RAGE!

YOU INSOLENT YOUNG WHELP!

JACKMAN FOR PITY'S SAKE, MAN!



CALMLY, FURY TURNED HIS BACK ON THEM...

MOORGA! PRALLA THARGA MEKA!

WHAT THE DEUCE...?



CONTINUED OVER PAGE...



Spiders' webs can be used to make a kind of silk which can be woven.





The broad arrow was first used as a government mark in 1698.

BY THE TIME FURY REACHED JACKMAN MANOR, THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE KNEW ABOUT IT!

YOU'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS, JACKMAN. YOU OUGHT TO GET A DOCTOR FOR THAT BOY, YOU KNOW...

DISPERSE, AND KENNEL THE DOGS. YOU CAN LEAVE THIS BRAT TO ME!

HUMBUG! IT'S A LOCKED ROOM FOR YOU, MY LAD... UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE! MAYBE WE CAN HANG SOME POACHING CHARGES ON YOU, AS WELL!

UGGH! FURY DOES NOT TAKE ANIMALS' LIVES...

A HEAVY OAKEN DOOR SLAMMED ON HIM... AND FURY WAS A PRISONER!

I MUST GET AWAY! MY FRIENDS NEED ME...

THEN...

THOKKA THOKKA THOKKA

HUH...? IT IS THE HORN-BEAKED HAMMERING ONE!

THROOP THROK THRIKKA! SKREEP SKROOL!

WHAT? MY FRIENDS ARE COMING TO RESCUE ME? CHIEFTAIN IS ALREADY HERE...?

RARRRL! CHIEFTAIN! GARF GNORR CHANG!

GRAFF! SNURR!

SOON, FURY SAW THE LUMBERING SHAPE OF THE GIANT GORILLA THRUSTING THROUGH THE TREES...

WILD FOREST CREATURES TOLD CHANG OF MY CAPTURE! FURY WILL SOON BE FREE NOW!

CHANG BEGAN TO CLIMB THE IVY ON THE TOWER...

BUT, INSIDE THE TOWER... WHAT THE DEVIL WAS THAT? SOMEONE OUTSIDE...?

GAD! I DO BELIEVE SOMEONE'S CLIMBING THE BACK WALL!

THE MAN RACED OUTSIDE... AND HIS JAW DROPPED! A-A GORILLA! WHAT THE DICKENS DOES THIS MEAN?

AND AUTOMATICALLY, THE HUNTER'S GUN WAS ALREADY COMING UP INTO THE AIM!

WATCH OUT FOR "FURY'S FAMILY" NEXT WEEK!



# LOST! ONE FIRST TEAM FOOTBALLER!

# Dusty Binns

PA BINNS WANTED HIS SON, DUSTY, TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY RAG-AND-BONE BUSINESS, BUT DUSTY WANTED TO MAKE FOOTBALL HIS CAREER. ON THE MORNING OF THE BIG DAY IN WHICH HE WAS GOING TO PLAY WITH **OLDTOWN WANDERERS' FIRST ELEVEN**, DUSTY HELPED HIS DAD MOVE SOME JUNK FROM A RICKETY, DERELICT OLD MANSION. THERE, UNNOTICED BY ANYONE ELSE, A SECRET TRAPDOOR OPENED BENEATH HIM...



OLDTOWN WANDERERS' MATCH AGAINST REDCLIFF UNITED WAS ABOUT TO START - BUT...



... NO, MR. BINNS, YOUR SON /S/N'T HERE! BECAUSE I REALISE HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS TO HIM, I'M KEEPING HIS PLACE OPEN! I JUST HOPE HE DOES SHOW UP!

BUT... BUT IF DUSTY AIN'T HERE... THEN WHERE THE 'ECK IS HE?

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, BACK AT THE DERELICT MANSION HOUSE...

JUST A WASTE OF BLOOMIN' ENERGY, US KNOCKING THAT PLACE DOWN! IT'S GOING TO COLLAPSE ANY MINUTE, ANYWAY! JUST A STIFF BREEZE... THAT'S ALL THAT'S NEEDED!

IT'S NO USE ME KEEPING ON YELLING! NO ONE CAN HEAR ME! THE ONLY HOPE OF ME GETTING OUT OF HERE... IS BY BATTERING THAT DOOR DOWN!



BUT, TWENTY MINUTES LATER, DOWN IN THE SECRET ROOM INTO WHICH DUSTY HAD FALLEN...

S'NO USE! ALL I'VE DONE IS WEAR MYSELF OUT! DARNED DOORS BOLTED ON THE OTHER SIDE! IT HASN'T BUDGED AN INCH!



THEN...

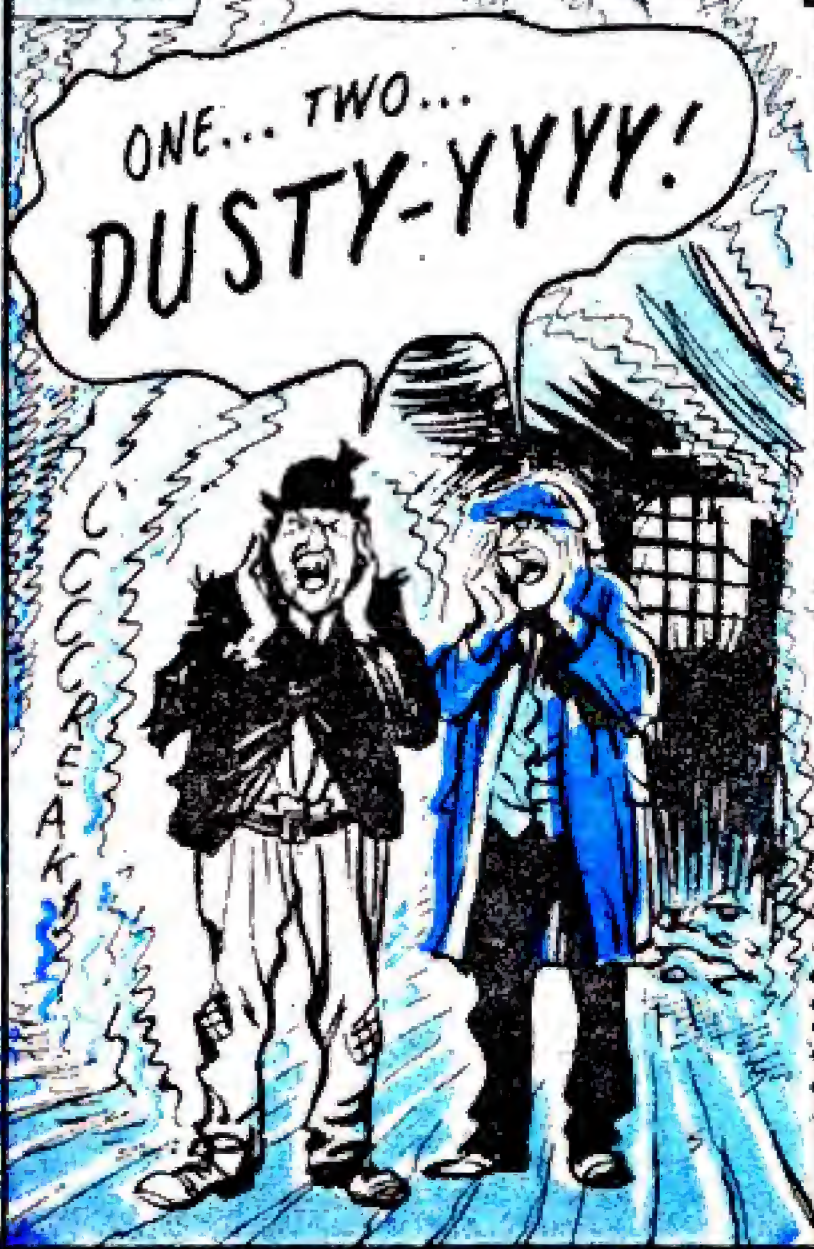
THEY SAID THIS OLD DUMP WAS FULL OF SECRET PASSAGES, AN! AS DUSTY AIN'T NOWHERE ELSE... HE MUST BE 'ERE! WE'LL YELL OUT FOR 'IM... BOTH TOGETHER!

HEY! DON'T GO BANGING AROUND IN THERE... OR YOU'LL HAVE THE FLIPPIN' PLACE ROUND YOUR EARS!



THE TWO FRIENDS TOOK A DEEP BREATH, AND...

ONE... TWO... DUSTY-YYYY!



NEXT INSTANT...

YAAAAA! YIIIIIPES!



CRUUNGH!

UUUUURGH!

AAAAA!

PA! MISTER TUBBS! WHAT'S...? YEEEEOWN!



The 'Long Man' hill carving at Wilmington, Sussex, is 226 feet long.

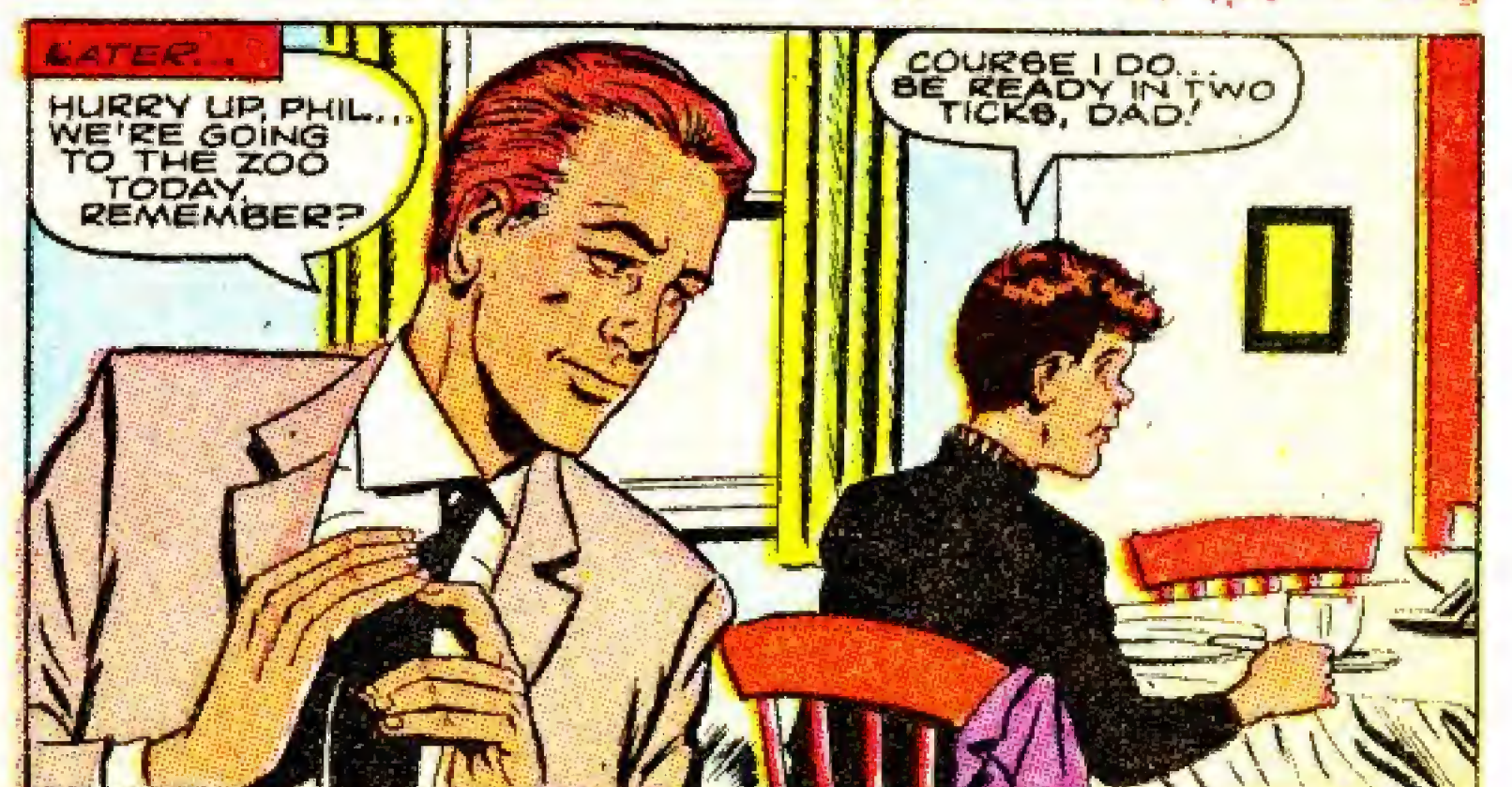
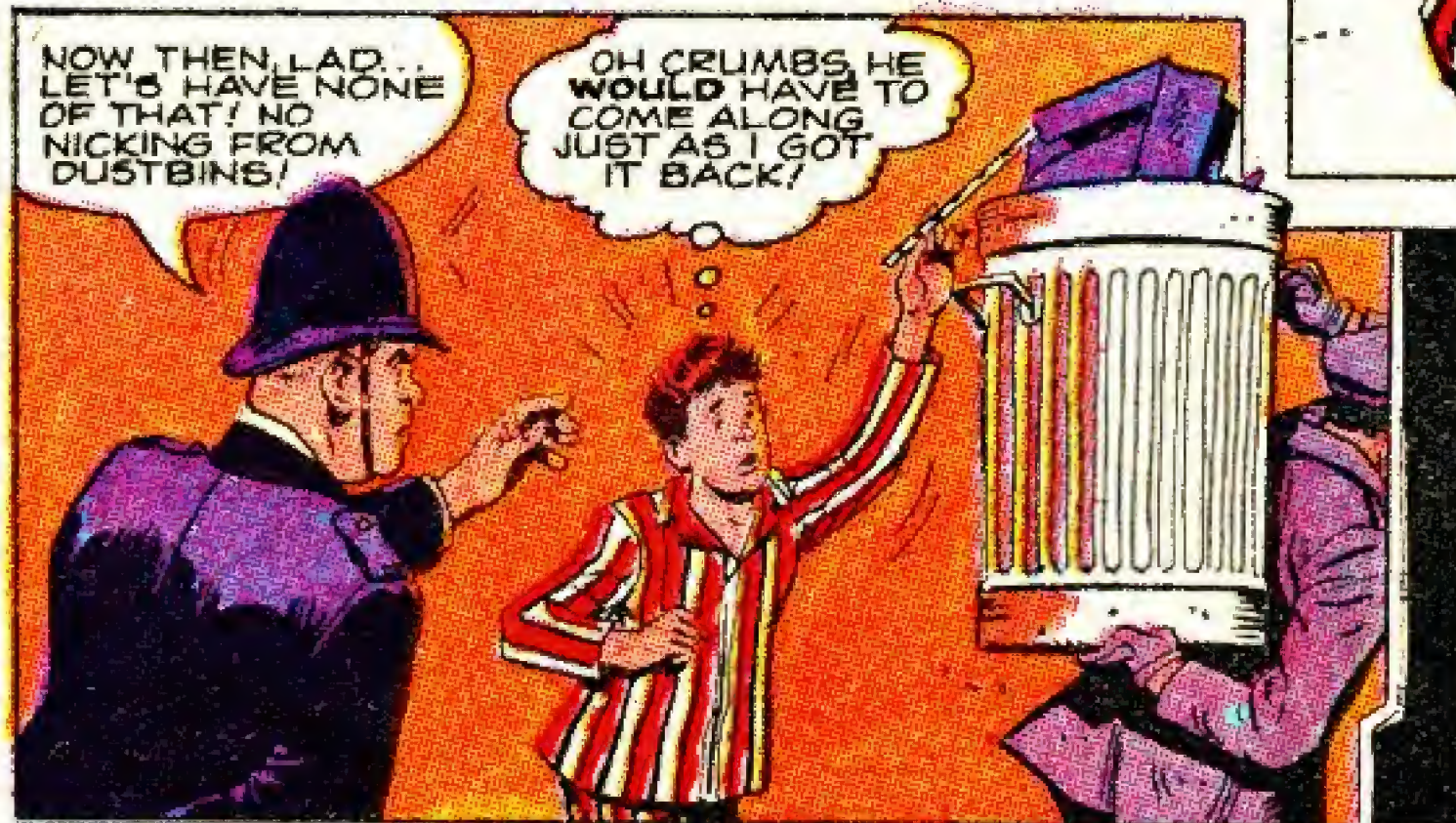
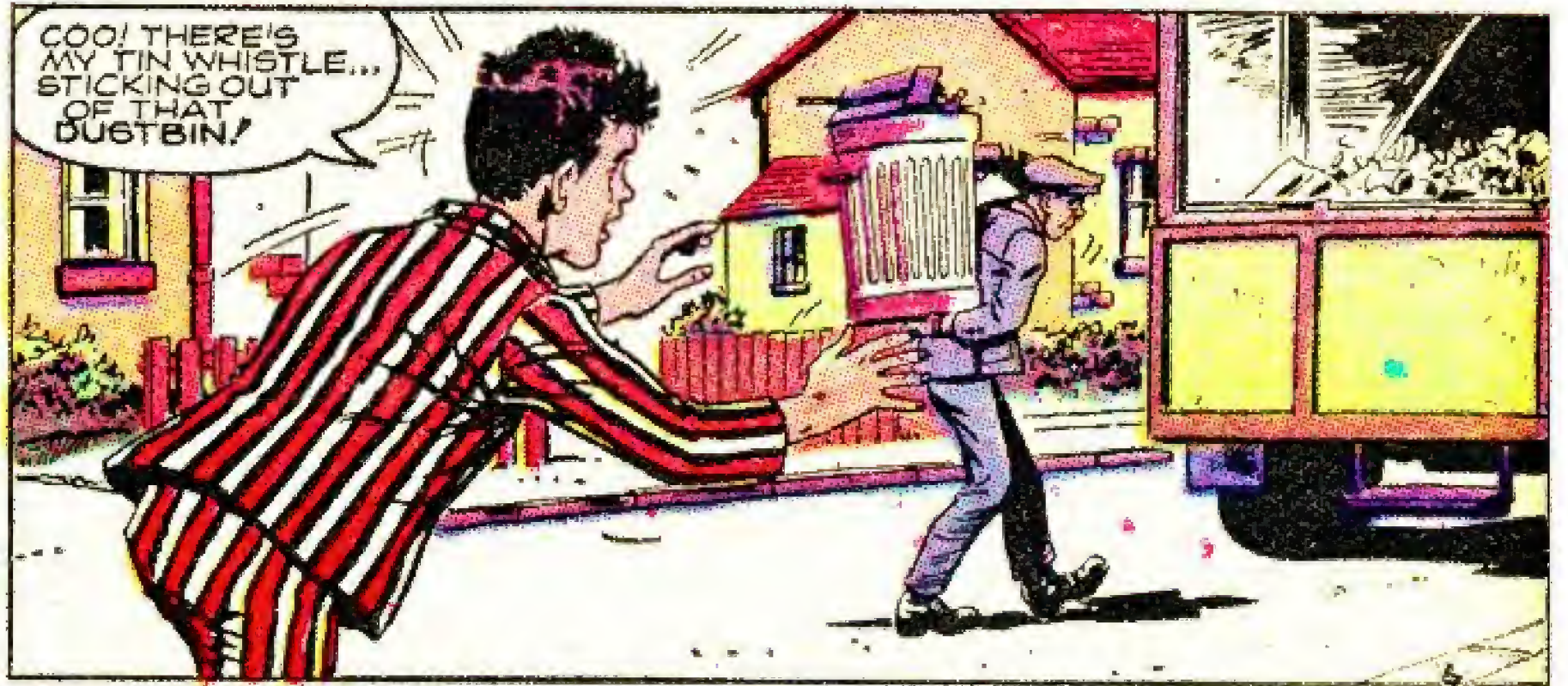




# IT'S LOST! THE TIN WHISTLE BELONGING TO...

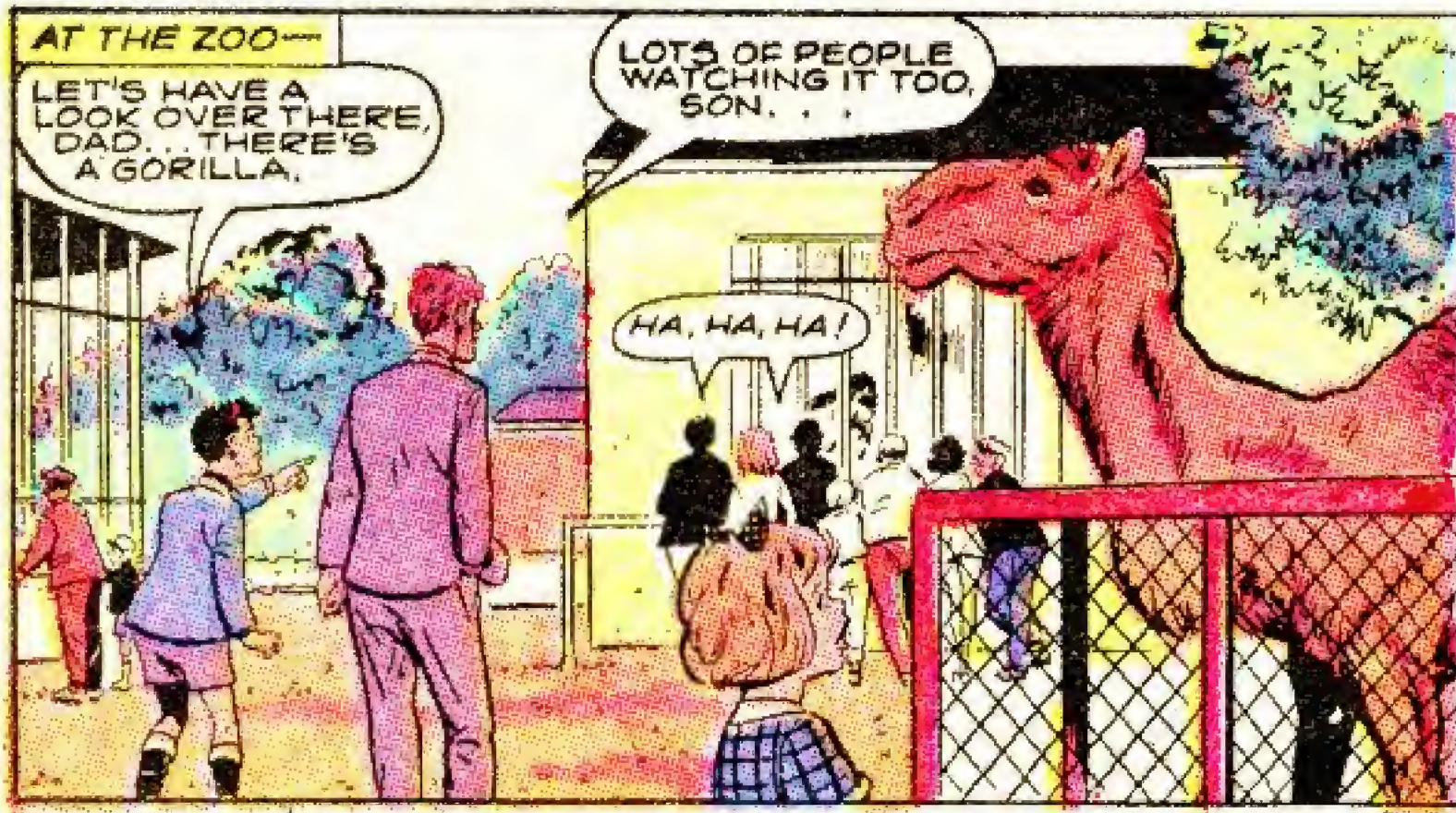
## PHIL THE FLUTTER

PHIL TAYLOR DISCOVERED AN OLD TIN WHISTLE... AND FOUND THAT IT HAD STRANGE POWERS. WHENEVER HE BLEW A CERTAIN NOTE, TIME SEEMED TO STAND STILL — EVERYONE WITHIN HEARING BECAME ROOTED TO THE SPOT AND REMEMBERED NOTHING ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS. BUT ONE DAY PHIL'S MUM THREW THE WHISTLE AWAY BY MISTAKE...





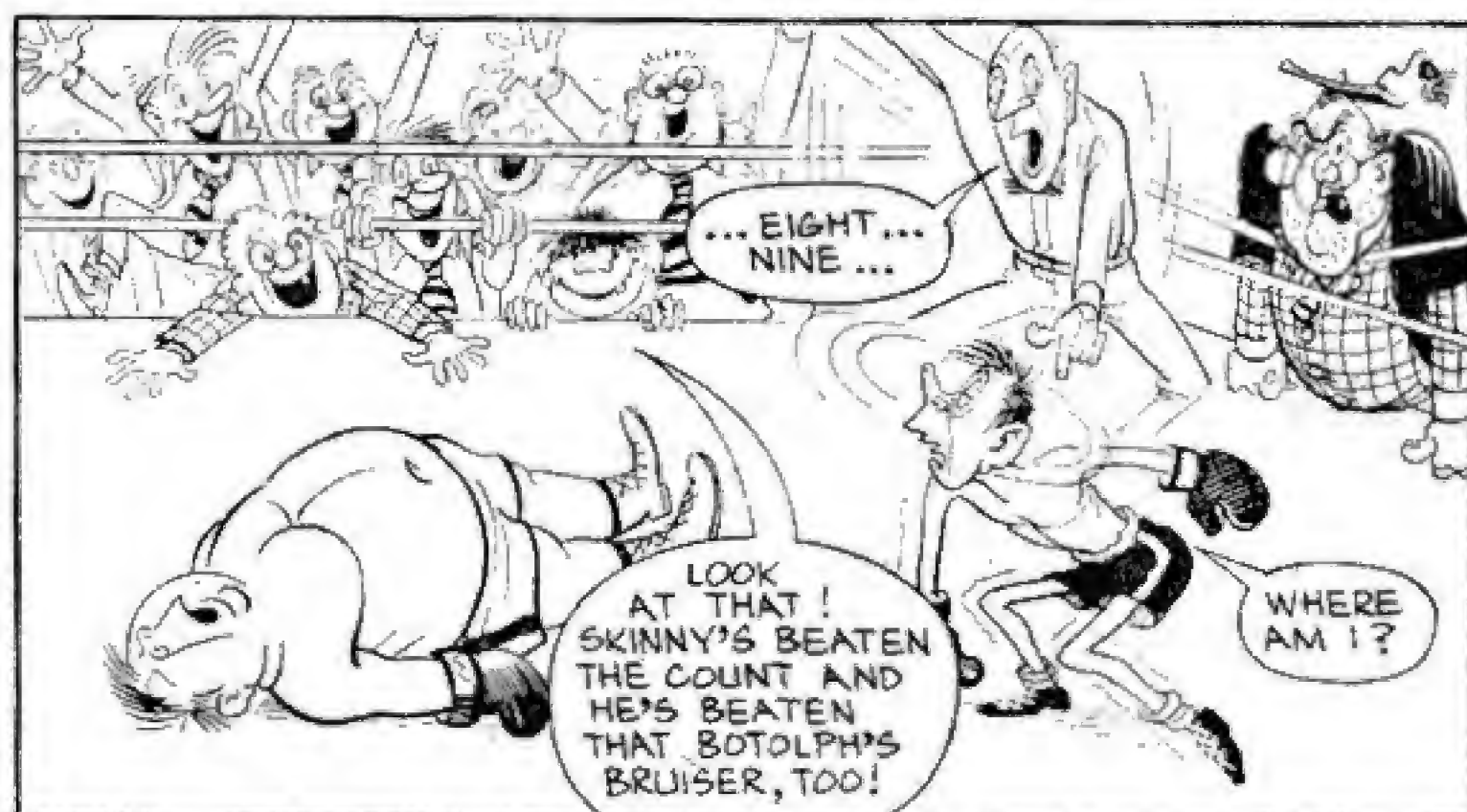
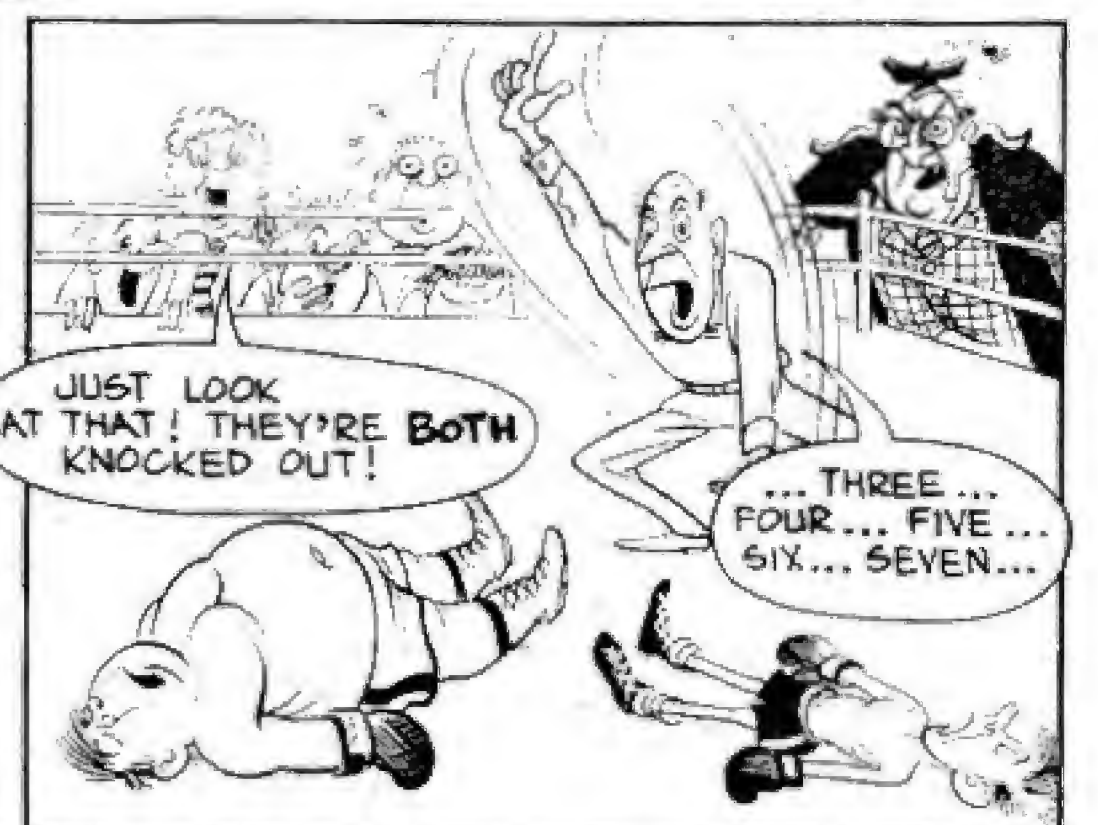
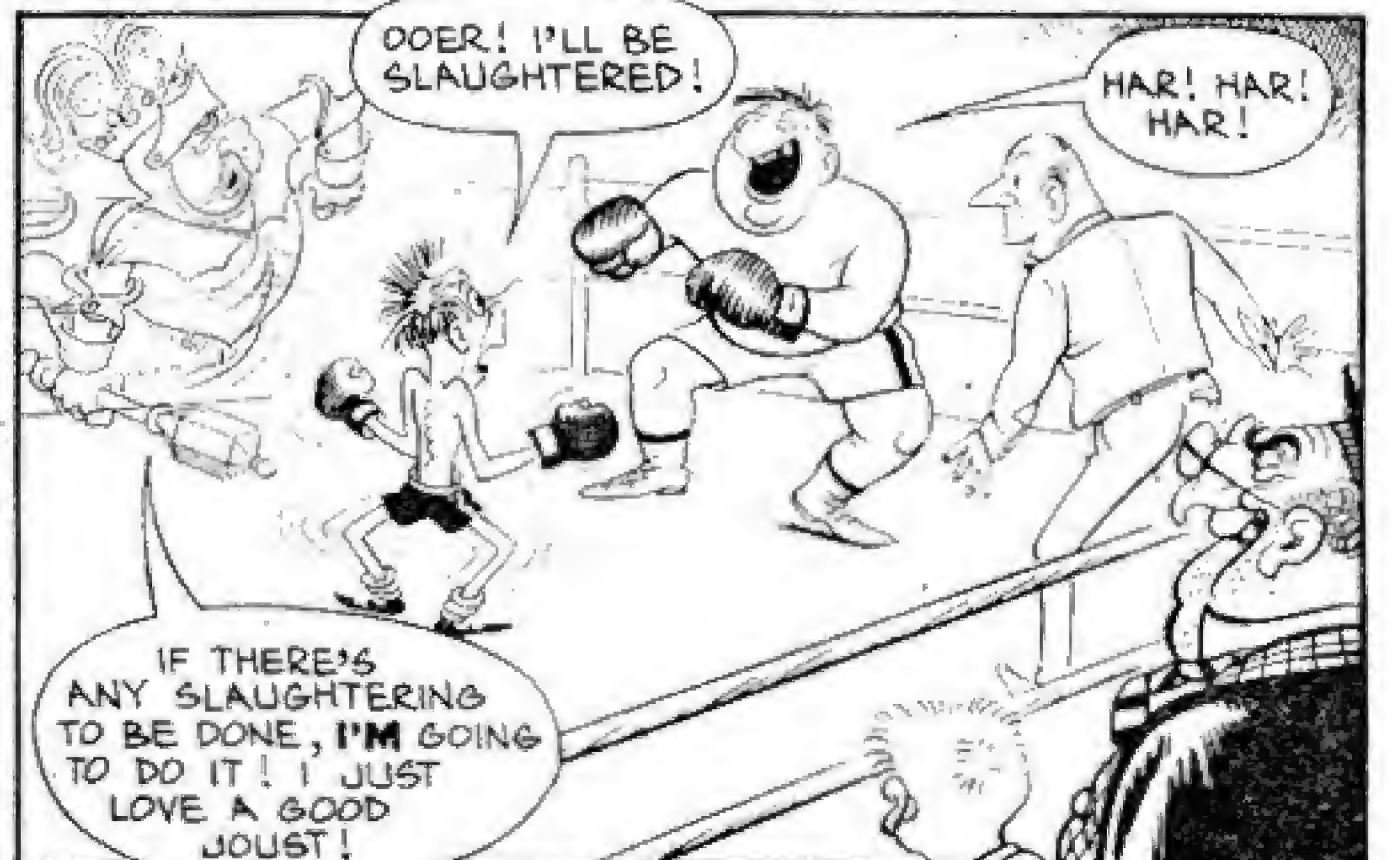
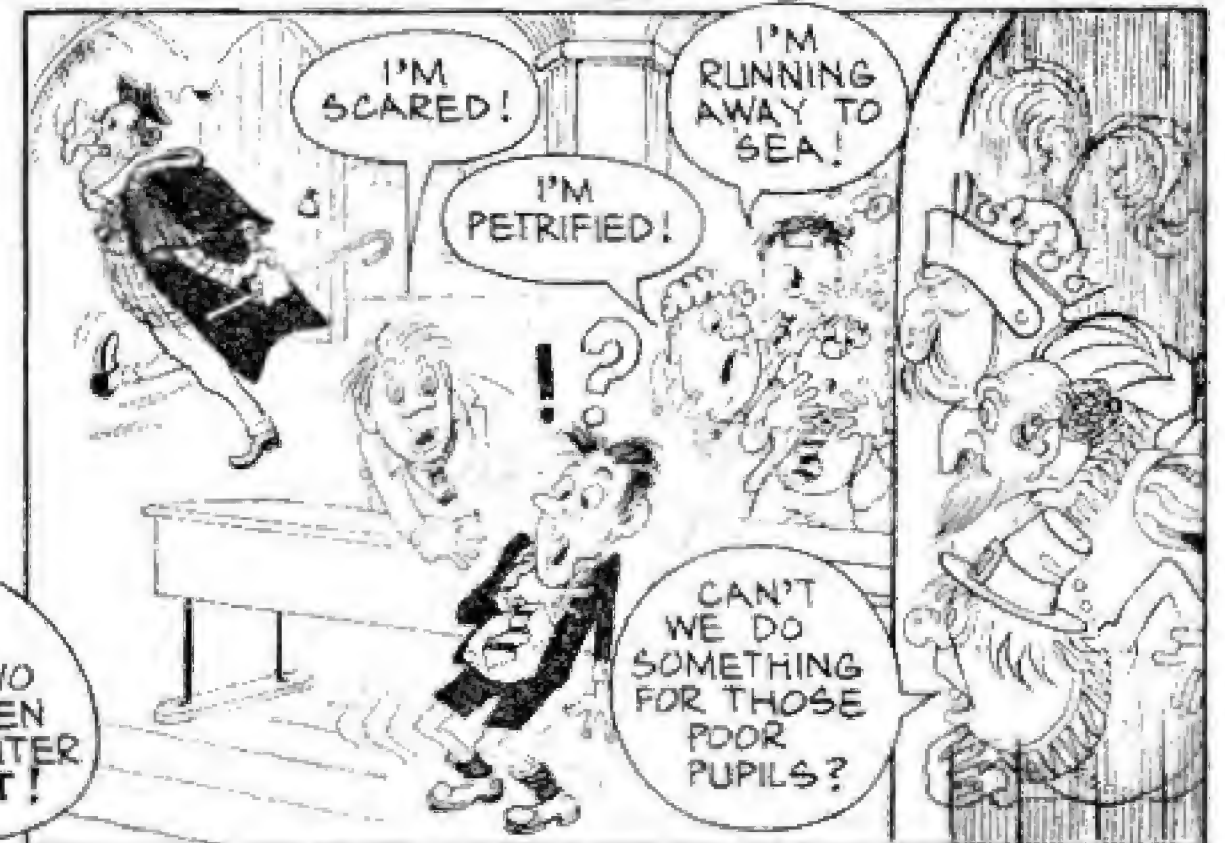
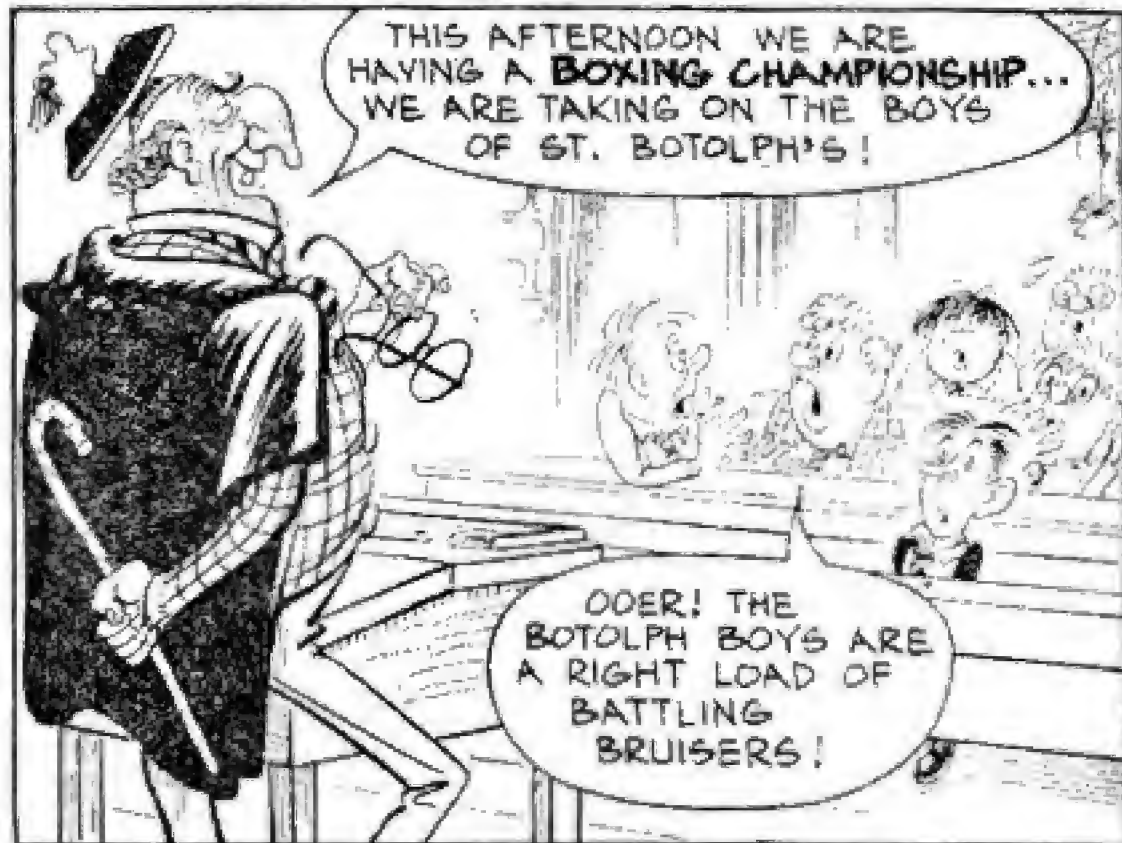
The gas-cooker was invented by a German in 1802.





# KNOCKOUT FUN WITH YOUR GHOSTLY PALS!

## THE SPOOKS OF ST. LUKE'S

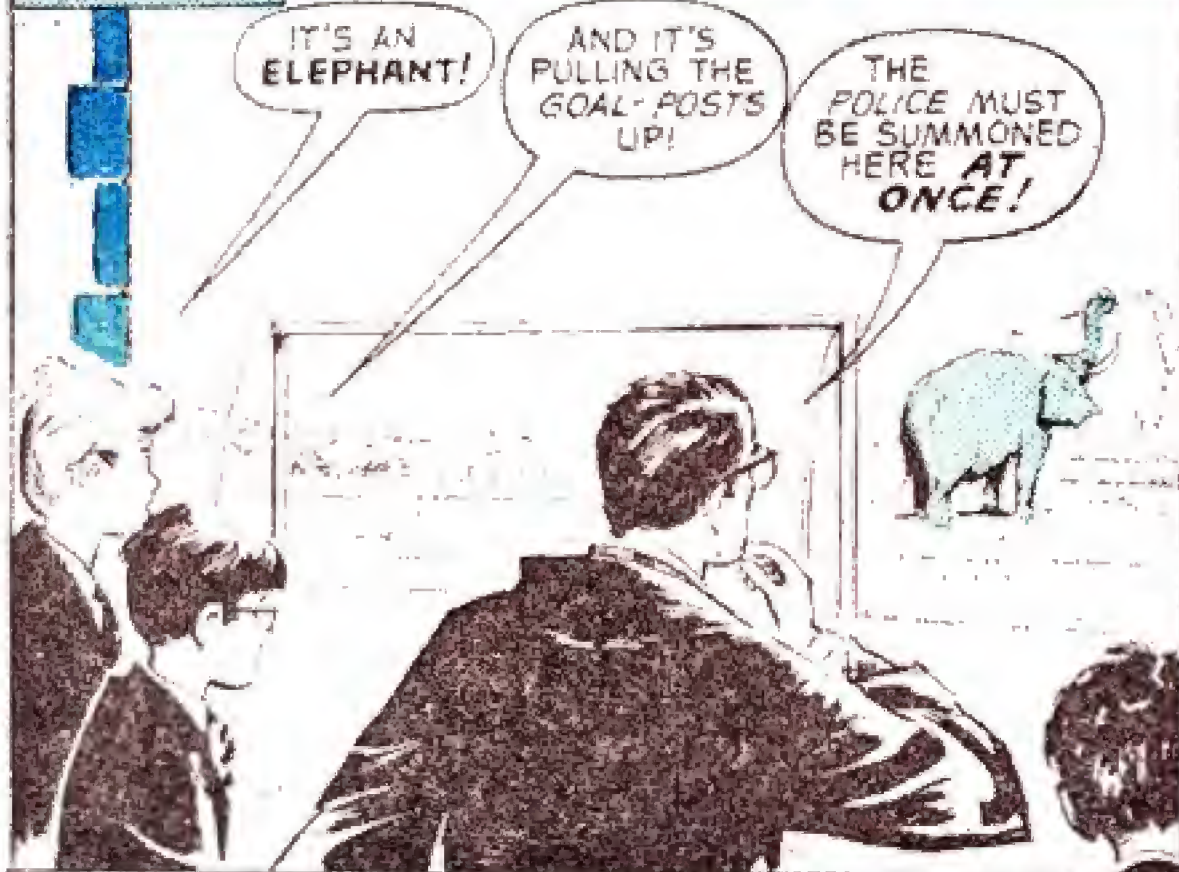




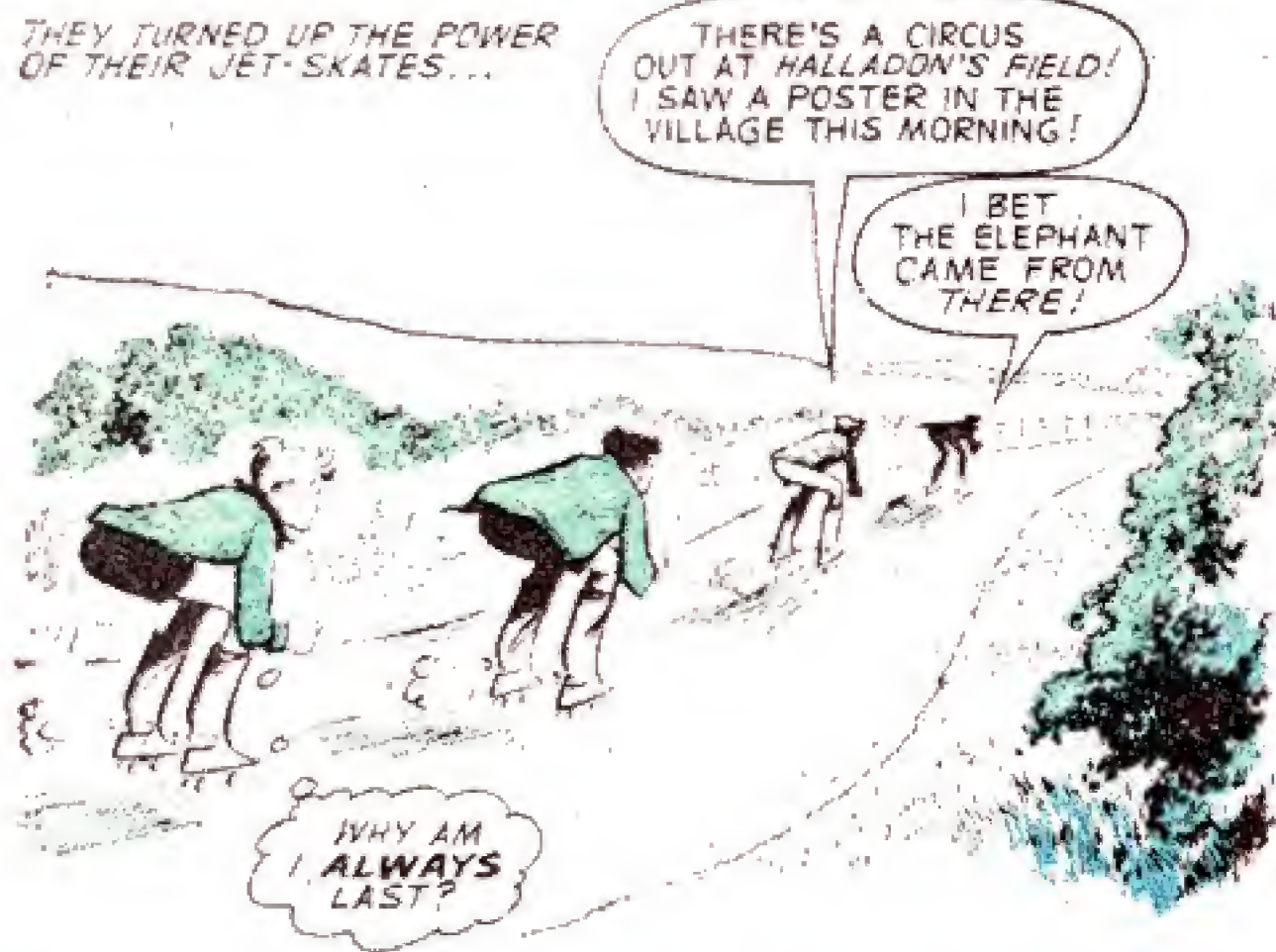
# A STRAY ELEPHANT MEANS A HALF-DAY HOLIDAY FOR...

## THE JET-SKATERS

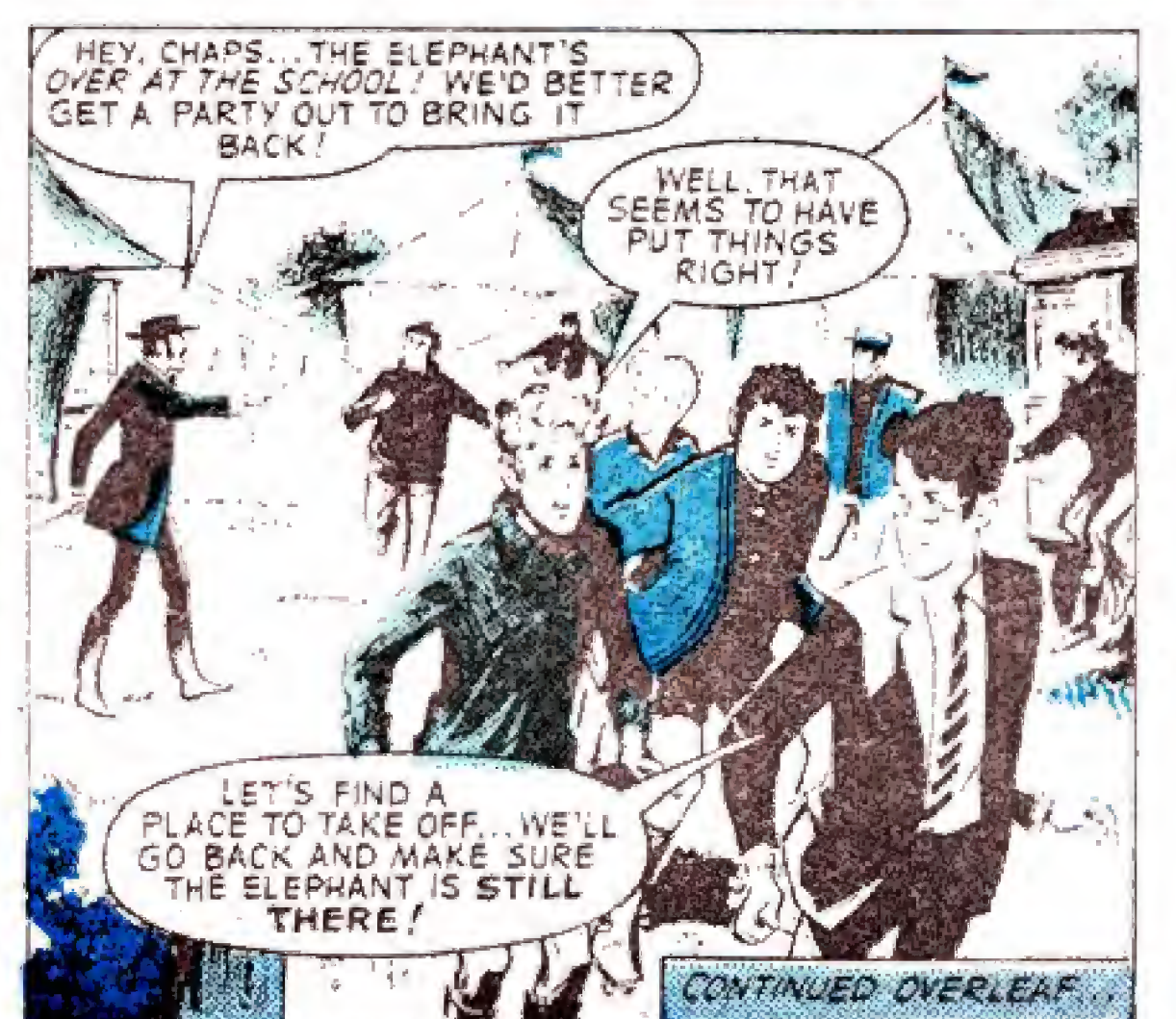
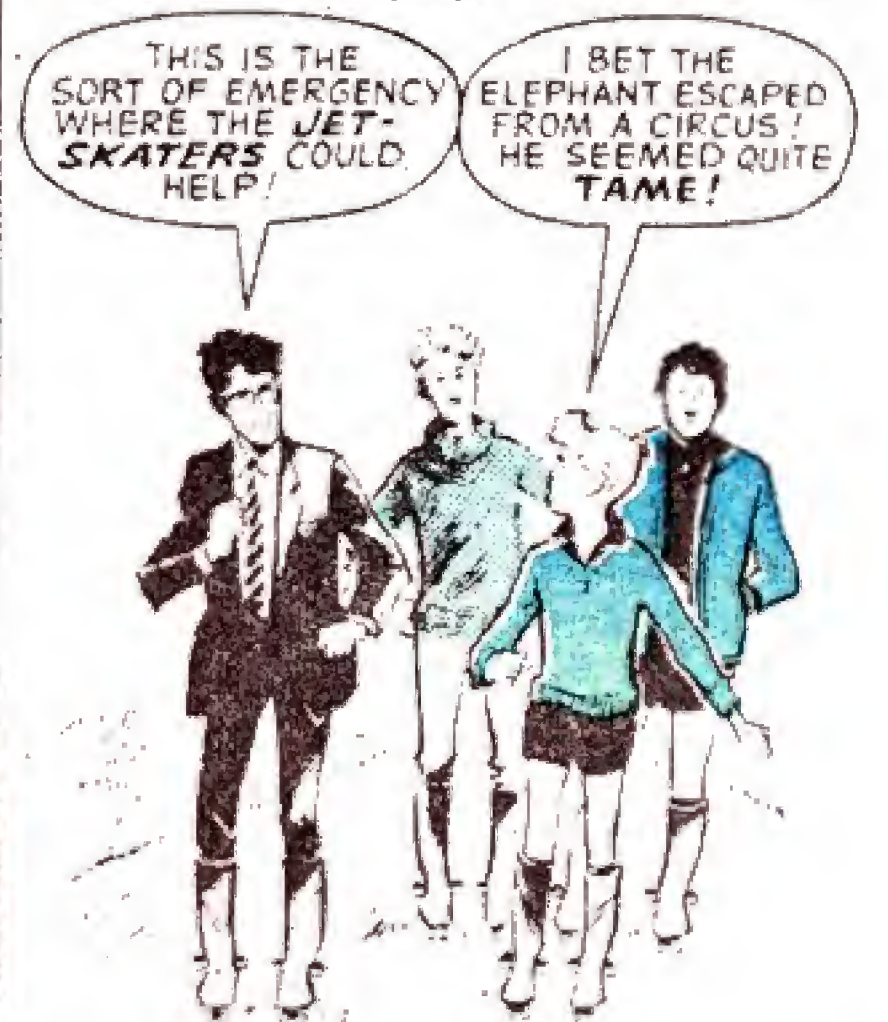
JIMMY AND PETER CLARKE, GORDON STONE AND ANDY JACKSON WERE GIVEN SUPER JET-POWERED ROLLER SKATES BY ANDY'S AMERICAN UNCLE, AND THEY FORMED THEMSELVES INTO A GANG, 'THE JET-SKATERS'. ONE DAY, AT SCHOOL, AN ELEPHANT APPEARED...



THEY TURNED UP THE POWER OF THEIR JET-SKATES...



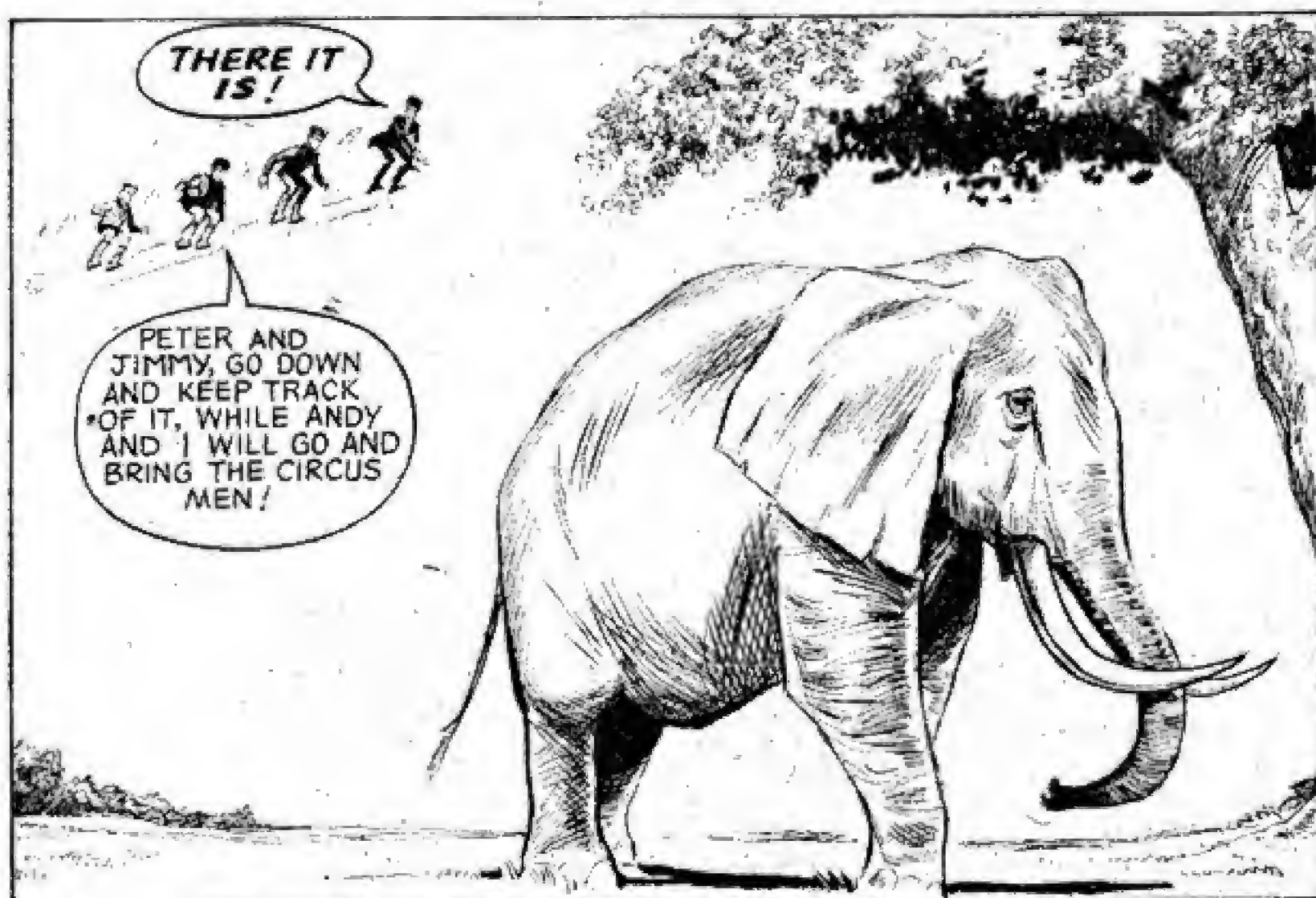
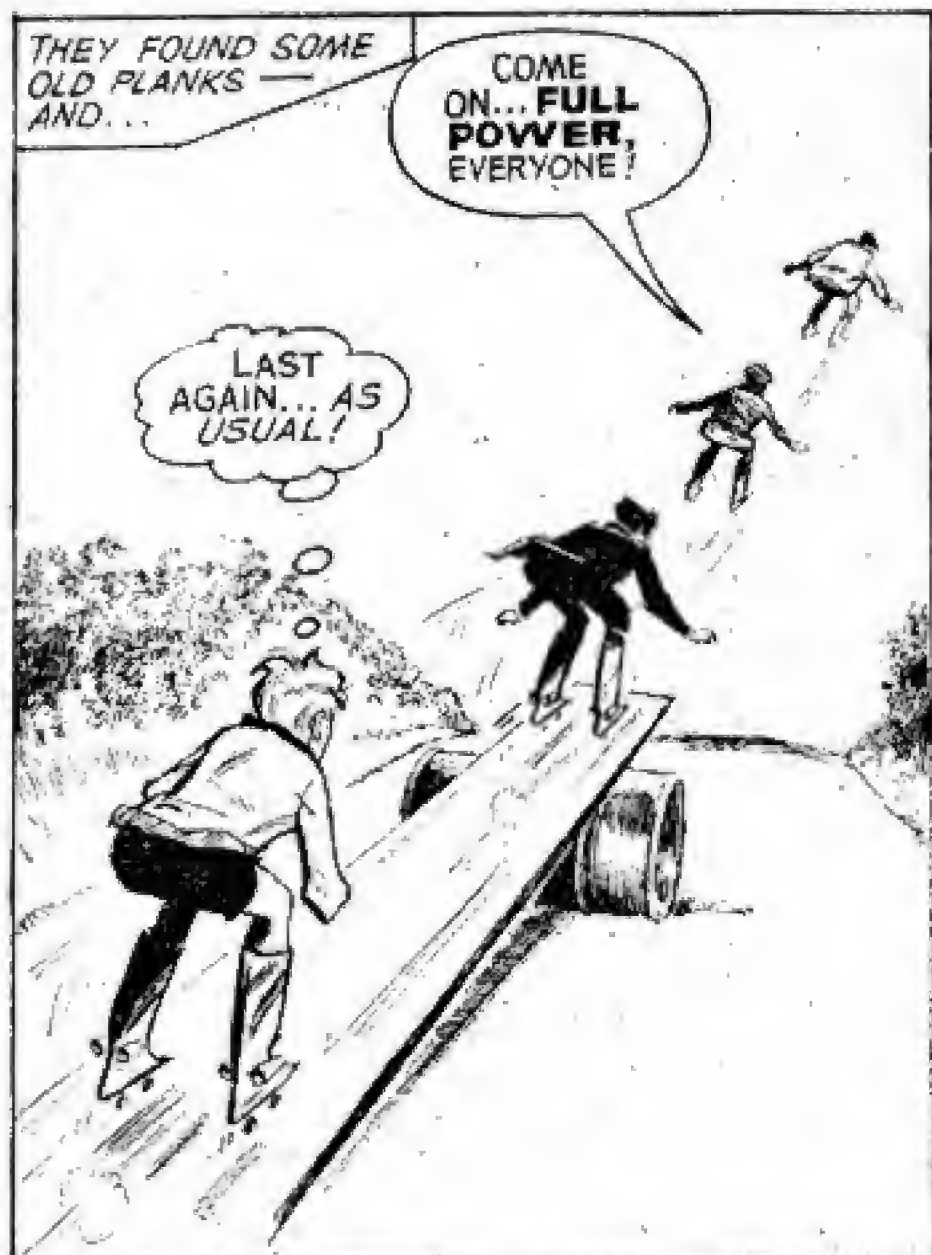
THE JET-SKATERS HELD A CONFERENCE...



CONTINUED OVERLEAF



A well-known American auctioneer was named Roy Holler.





The world's largest pyramid is in Mexico, is 177 feet high, and covers 45 acres.





# "SEND 'EM IN!" SAYS SAM



**£1**

— for you!  
That's what I'll  
pay for any let-  
ters, jokes,  
rhymes, riddles,  
or anything else that I  
pick to be printed on  
this page. Send 'em in  
to: Sam, "Thunder",  
Fleetway House, Far-  
rington Street, London,  
E.C.4 . . . and let me  
know your three  
favourite stories, too!

## STAR LETTER

Dear Sam,

A few days ago, my young brother saw  
me planting some seeds in a jam jar. I  
told him I was going to wait for them to  
shoot and then plant them in the garden.  
Yesterday, he rushed to the jam jar and  
asked, 'Are they firing yet?'

Nigel Meek, Wiltshire

## PICTURE GALLERY

Dear Sam,  
Hanging on the  
wall in my bedroom  
is a large board, on  
which I have glued  
pictures cut out from  
all my comics. Pride  
of place on my 'pic-  
ture gallery' is given  
to my new favourite  
characters in "Thun-  
der"!

Robert Harris,  
Newcastle



**SAM SAYS:** That's a jolly good idea—I wish  
I'd have thought of it first! But isn't it  
rather wasteful to snip up your old copies?  
Most of my pals try to keep all their comics  
in the best possible condition.

## LIGHTNING SERVICE!

Dear Sam,

Do you know why a bus  
is never struck by light-  
ning?

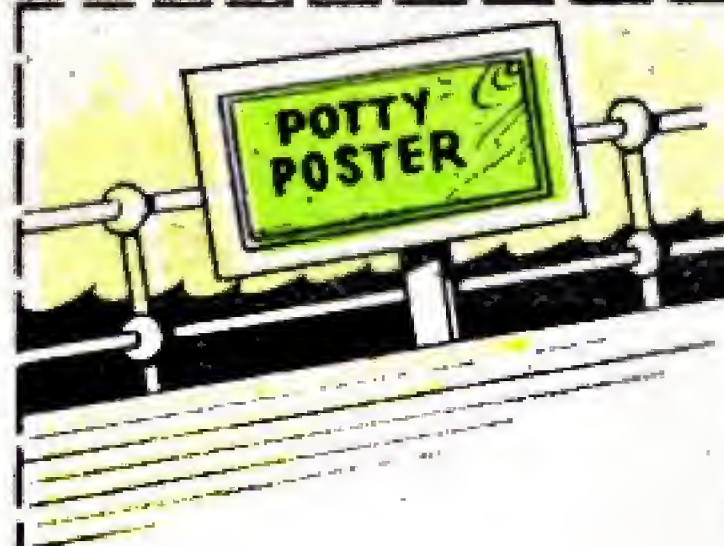
Mike Castle, Richmond  
**SAM SAYS:** The answer is  
quite simple really . . .  
*Because it has a conductor!*

## HOWLING MISTAKES!

When you are sick, a doctor  
should be insulted!

The French monarchy was  
overthrown by the Reso-  
lution!

Pompeii was buried under  
lava when Vesuvius cor-  
rupted in A.D. 79!



Dear Sam,

When our family came home from  
a boat cruise, there was a notice on  
the boat which read:

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMER-  
GENCY, PASSENGERS SHOULD PRO-  
CEED TO THE BACK OF THE BOAT  
AS DIRECTED BY THE ARROWS  
WEARING LIFE-JACKETS.**

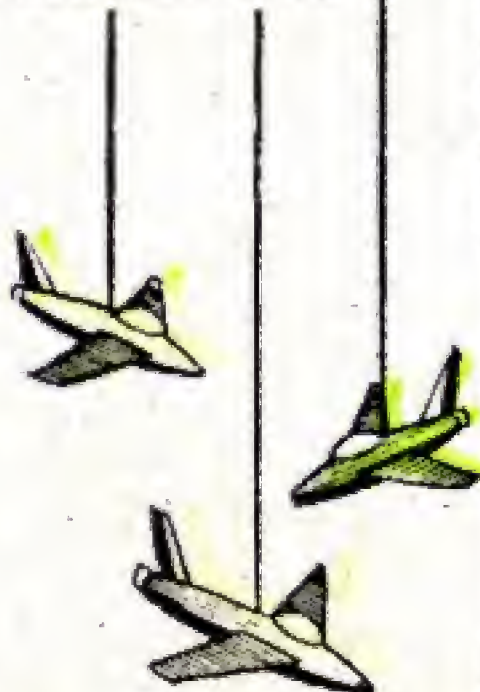
Jeremy Carne, Poole

## THE PLANE MAKERS

Dear Sam,

I thought you might like to  
know about our hobby of collect-  
ing model-aircraft kits which  
we suspend from our bed-  
room ceiling on very fine cotton.  
This makes the models look very  
realistic. We put a long length of  
cotton on the front of the plane,  
and attach a short piece to the  
back. So then the planes look as  
if they are diving. We have done  
this to eight of our models.

Brian and Steven Terson, Wakefield



## PROBLEM PIANIST!

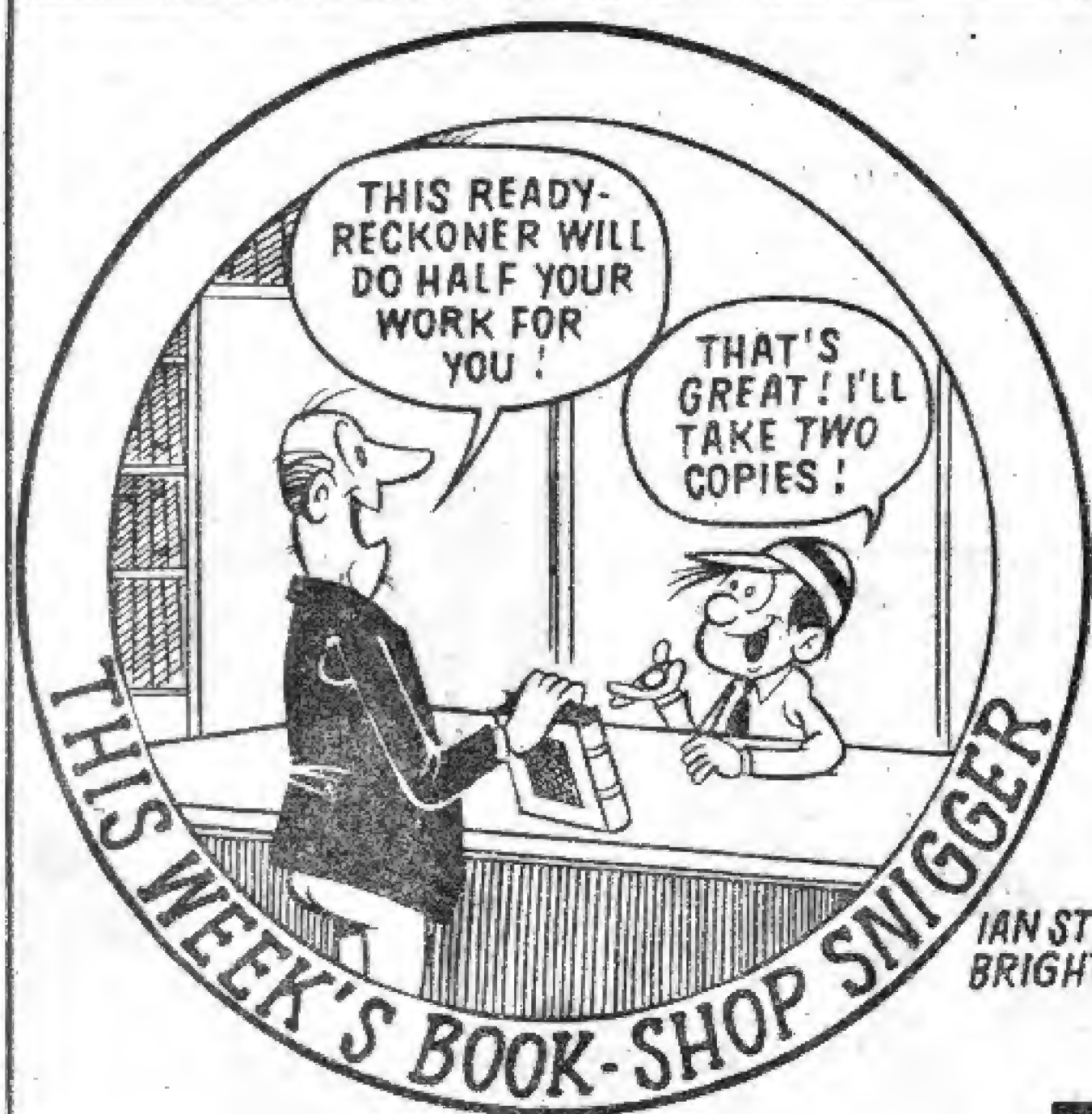
Dear Sam,

Every Tuesday and Friday I  
go to piano lessons. I enjoy  
them immensely. But all my  
friends think that piano les-  
sons and music are soppy and  
only for girls. Can any readers  
help me to explain to them  
that music is fun?

Peter Rowan, Eastbourne







IAN STEAD,  
BRIGHTON.



KEN JONES,  
DERBY.

## SAM PICKS HIS TOP GAGS

**£1** for any  
jokes  
that I  
think our  
artist would like  
to draw. Roll 'em  
in, pals! Let's  
make Sam's Spot  
a real cracker!



THIS WEEK'S CAR CACKLE

JOHN BURNS,  
LONDON.



THIS WEEK'S HELICOPTER HOWL

RAY DAVIS,  
ELTHAM.



MARK SMITH,  
DARLINGTON.



DES SKINN,  
GLASGOW.

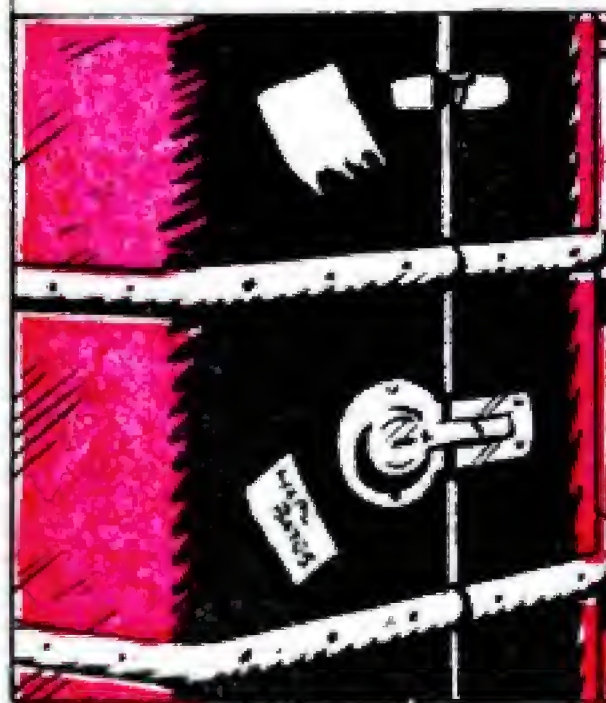


# THE ONLY BULLET-PROOF WARRIOR OF WORLD WAR II!

## STEEL COMMANDO



DURING WORLD WAR II, LANCE-CORPORAL ERNIE 'EXCUSED-BOOTS' BATES WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF A SECRET WEAPON CALLED THE STEEL COMMANDO, BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY MAN IN THE BRITISH ARMY THE ROBOT WOULD OBEY! IN CAMP, ONE COLD EVENING —

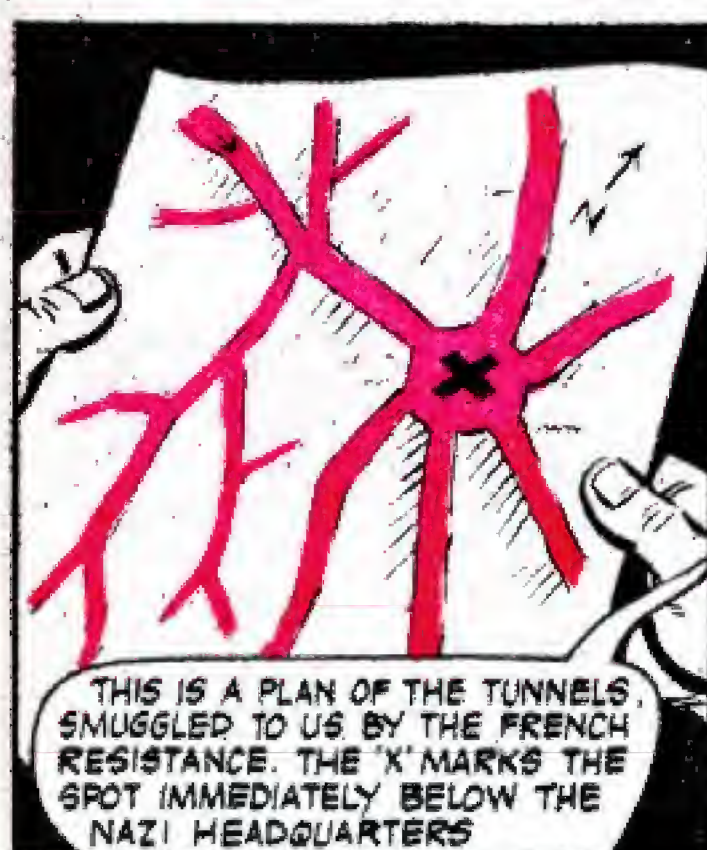


THE SERGEANT MAJOR ARRIVED IN TIME TO FIND THE CAMP FIRE-BRIGADE IN ACTION.

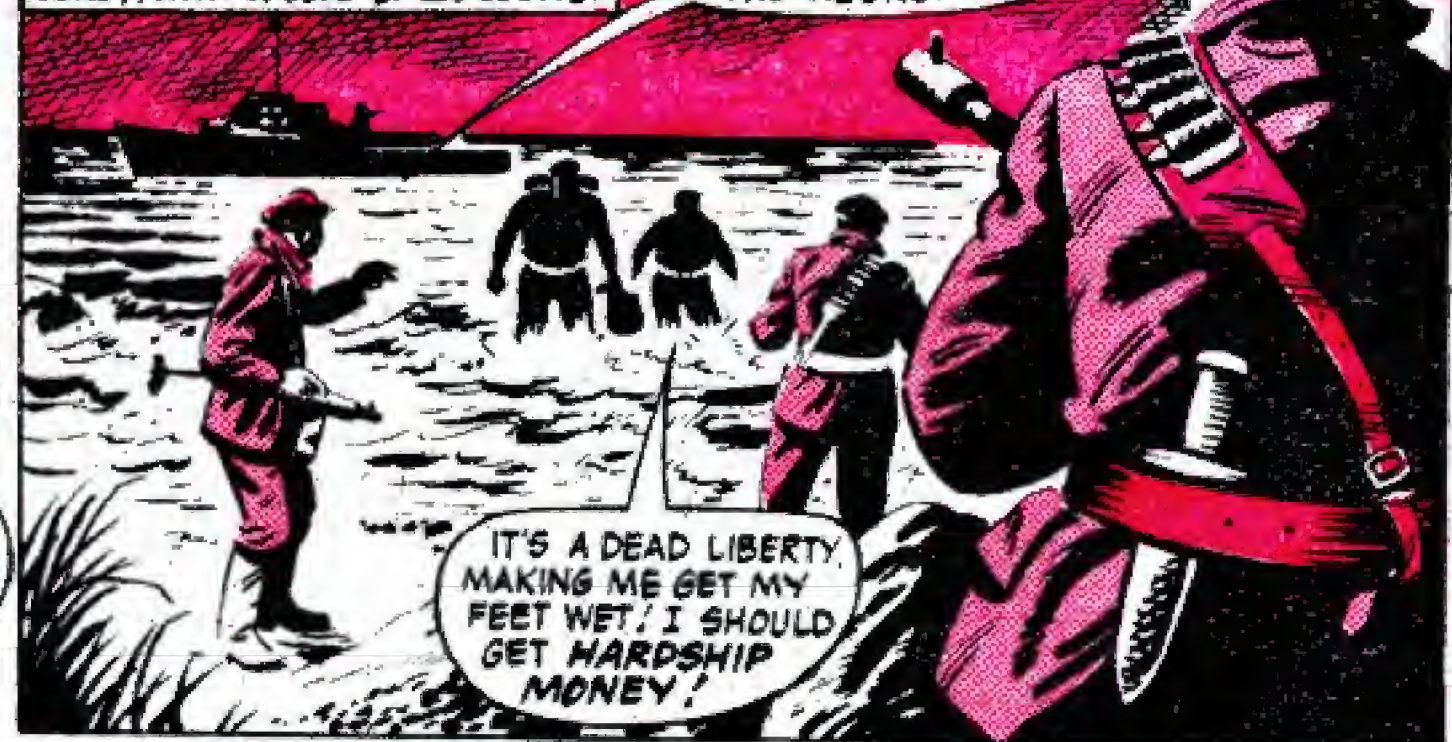




Dragon's blood' is a substance obtained from a cherry-like fruit.



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT A PATROL-BOAT LANDED ERNIE AND THE STEEL COMMANDO ON THE FRENCH COAST, WITH A LOAD OF EXPLOSIVE.



THE STEEL COMMANDO'S EYES LIT UP TO SHOW THE WAY THROUGH THE DARK MAZE OF TUNNELS.



THE STEEL COMMANDO STUDIED THE MAP AND THEN SET OFF CONFIDENTLY



CONTINUED OVER PAGE...

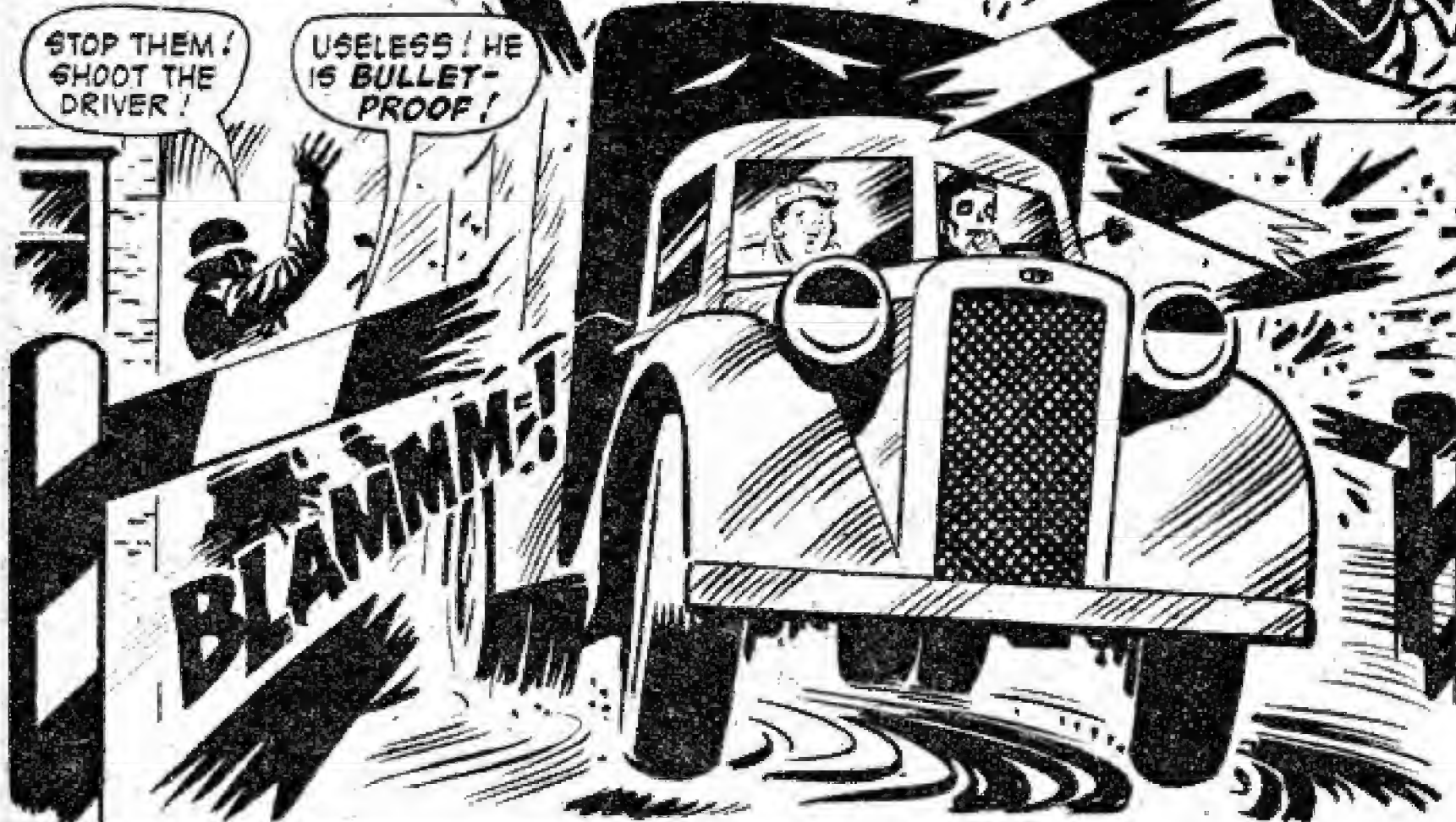


The longest alphabet in the world is the Cambodian, with 74 letters.





During a volcanic eruption in Barbados, red-hot ashes turned day into night.

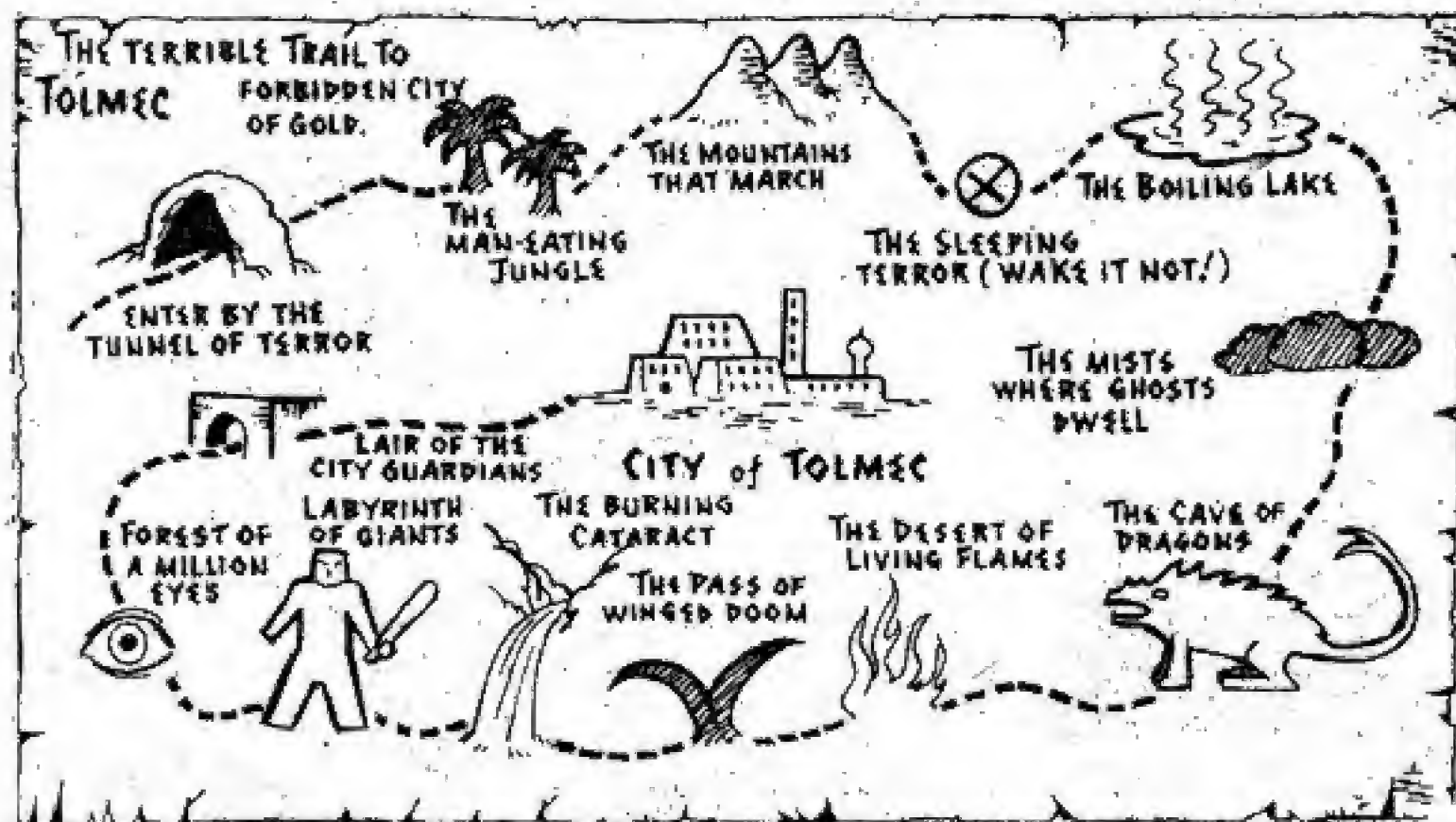


MORE FUN NEXT WEEK!



**A TERRIFIC THUNDER-STORM DROVE TOM & CO. INTO DEADLY PERIL!**

# THE TERRIBLE TRAIL TO TOLMEC



DOCTOR WOLFGANG STRANGER, WHO CONSIDERED HIMSELF THE GREATEST EXPLORER IN THE WORLD, AND HIS GIGANTIC MANSERVANT, TROLL, HAD AGREED TO GO WITH TOM TAYLOR ON THE TERRIBLE TRAIL TO TOLMEC, THE FORBIDDEN CITY OF GOLD, WHERE TOM BELIEVED THEY WOULD FIND HIS FATHER. AFTER OVERCOMING MANY EERIE PERILS THEY APPROACHED THE NEXT POINT MARKED ON TOM'S MAP... **THE CAVE OF DRAGONS!**





The world's greatest swindler was Ivar Kreuger, who forged £28,700,000 bonds.

I WOULD NOT HAVE BECOME THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPLORER IF I HAD LEFT THINGS TO CHANCE, TOM! YOU AND I WILL SEARCH FURTHER! TROLL WILL STAY AND GUARD THE STORES!



TOM WAS UNEASY AT LETTING TROLL OUT OF HIS SIGHT...

I DON'T TRUST TROLL! I'M SURE HE DOESN'T MEAN US EVER TO REACH THE CITY OF GOLD! BUT STRANGER WON'T HEAR A WORD AGAINST HIM!



DOCTOR STRANGER UTTERED A SUDDEN EXCLAMATION OF EXCITEMENT AND ALARM!

TOM—LOOK!



THEY CREEPT FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY...

WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO EXCITE THEM! THEY LOOK AS IF THEY COULD SWALLOW US IN ONE MOUTHFUL!

THAT'S FUNNY—NONE OF THEM ARE MOVING!



TOM SUDDENLY DASHED FORWARD...

TOM! TAKE CARE!

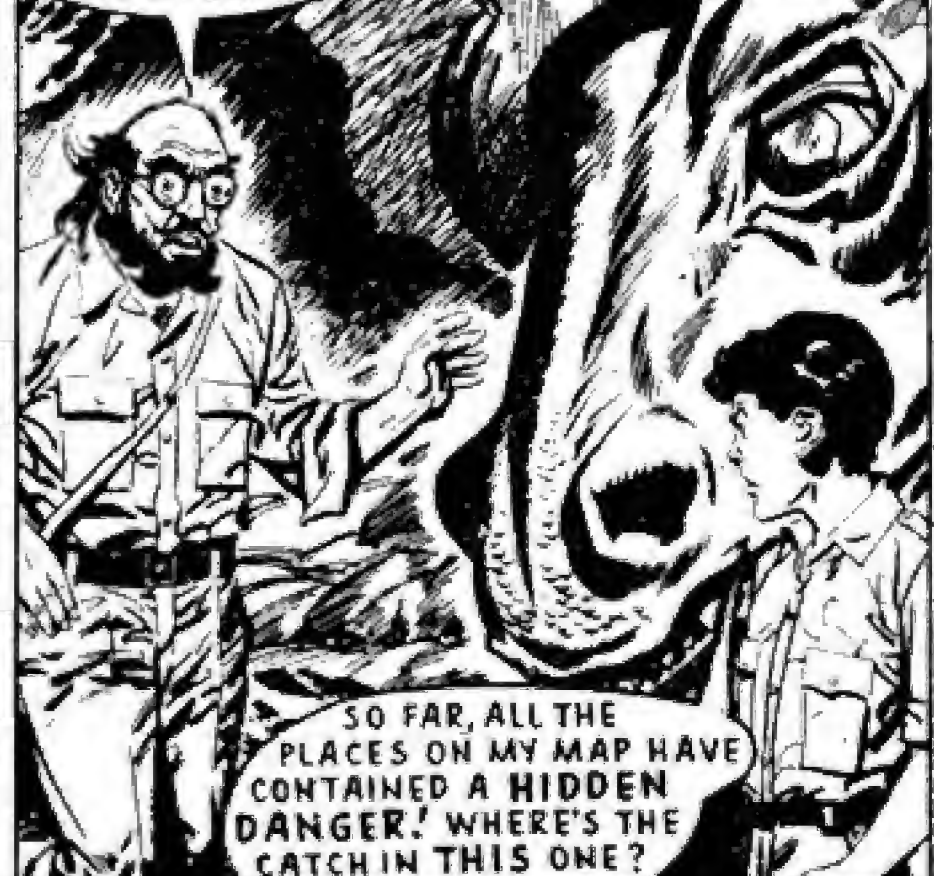
DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR!



DOCTOR STRANGER WAS AMAZED...

INCREDIBLE! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES! AND ONLY A SCULPTOR OF SHEER GENIUS COULD HAVE CARVED SUCH MAGNIFICENT BEASTS OUT OF THE ROCK!

SO FAR, ALL THE PLACES ON MY MAP HAVE CONTAINED A HIDDEN DANGER! WHERE'S THE CATCH IN THIS ONE?



TOM AND STRANGER RETURNED TO THE REST OF THE PARTY, WHERE A MEAL WAS BEING PREPARED...

THERE'S JUST TIME BEFORE WE EAT TO GET SOME FLASHLIGHT PICTURES OF THOSE DRAGONS!



AS HE TOOK HIS PICTURES, TOM NOTICED THAT ONE OF THE PACK ANIMALS HAD FOLLOWED A PORTER WHO HAD COME TO THE POOL FOR DRINKING WATER...

I'LL TRY TO GET THE PONY IN THE NEXT ONE!



TOM FELT SUDDENLY UNEASY...

THAT'S FUNNY! IT HASN'T MOVED, AND... AND IT'S CHANGING COLOUR!



HECK! IT'S TURNED TO STONE—JUST LIKE THE DRAGONS!



CONTINUED OVERLEAF...



The world's fastest fish is the Atlantic sailfish, which swims at 70 MPH.

TOM SUDDENLY SAW TROLL PEERING AT HIM WITH A CUNNING LEER...



TROLL SUDDENLY FLUNG HIMSELF AT TOM...



TOM TWISTED OUT OF THE WAY IN THE NICK OF TIME...



TOM WAS IN THE NICK OF TIME...

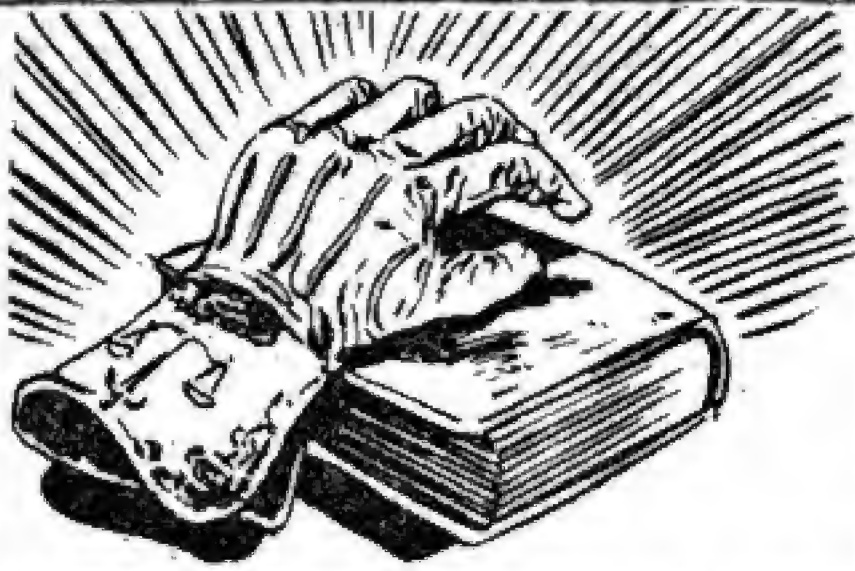


MORE THRILLS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THUNDER"!



**JUSTICE WAS THE GLOVE'S ONLY TARGET!**

# GAUNTLET OF FATE



HI, JOE! YOU AREN'T DEAD OF BOREDOM YET, IN THIS BACKWATER OF YOURS?

AH, YOU'RE ALWAYS TAKING THE MICKEY! WHAT'S THE NEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THEN?

A STRANGE OLD GAUNTLET WHICH HAD ONCE BELONGED TO A MEDIEVAL LAW-MAKER HAD BEEN DUG OUT OF ITS CENTURIES-OLD HIDING PLACE. THE GAUNTLET BROUGHT JUSTICE TO ALL WHO WORE IT ON THEIR HAND, THE WICKED OR THE GOOD. IT WAS FLUNG AWAY BY A MISERLY ANTIQUE DEALER WHO HAD BEEN PUNISHED BY IT, AND FELL INTO THE BACK OF A PASSING VAN. THE VAN CARRIED THE GAUNTLET OF FATE TO AN ISOLATED LOCK ON AN ESSEX CANAL...



THE GAUNTLET OF FATE WAS POSSESSED OF A STRANGE WILLPOWER OF ITS OWN...

ANOTHER GOLD BULLION ROBBERY, EH? POLICE SET UP ROAD BLOCKS IN HOME COUNTIES! HUH, FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT'LL DO!

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK THEY OUGHT TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR OLD CANAL?



UNSEEN BY THE LOCK-KEEPER, JOE TIBBETT, THE GAUNTLET SCUTTLED TOWARDS THE LOCK-GATE...

WHY NOT? I KNOW IT'S AT THE BACK OF THE BEYOND... BUT THAT'S JUST WHY THE CROOKS MIGHT USE IT TO SHIP THEIR LOOT QUIETLY TO THE COAST!

YEAH?



THE GAUNTLET SNATCHED JOE'S OLD LEATHER GLOVE OFF THE SLUICE WHEEL...

YOU KEEP HOPING, JOE... ONE DAY, YOU AND YOUR OLD CANAL MIGHT HIT THE HEADLINES!

I WISH WE COULD! THAT'D SHOW THEM!



A FEW HOURS LATER...

MORNIN' SKIPPER!

NOW THAT BARGE, F'R INSTANCE... IT COULD BE CARRYING THE STOLEN BULLION UNDER ITS TARPULIN...



JOE THOUGHT HE WAS REACHING FOR HIS OWN GLOVE - BUT THE GAUNTLET OF FATE HAD TAKEN THE GLOVE'S PLACE...

I KNOW IT'S DAFT... BUT I RECKON I'LL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THAT CARGO WHEN I'VE OPENED THE SLUICE GATE...



THE LOCK SLOWLY FILLED, RAISING THE BARGE TO THE HIGHER LEVEL OF THE CANAL BEYOND...

NOW WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT SNOOPY OLD LOCK-KEEPER WANT? I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HIM...



JOE TIBBETT WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE...

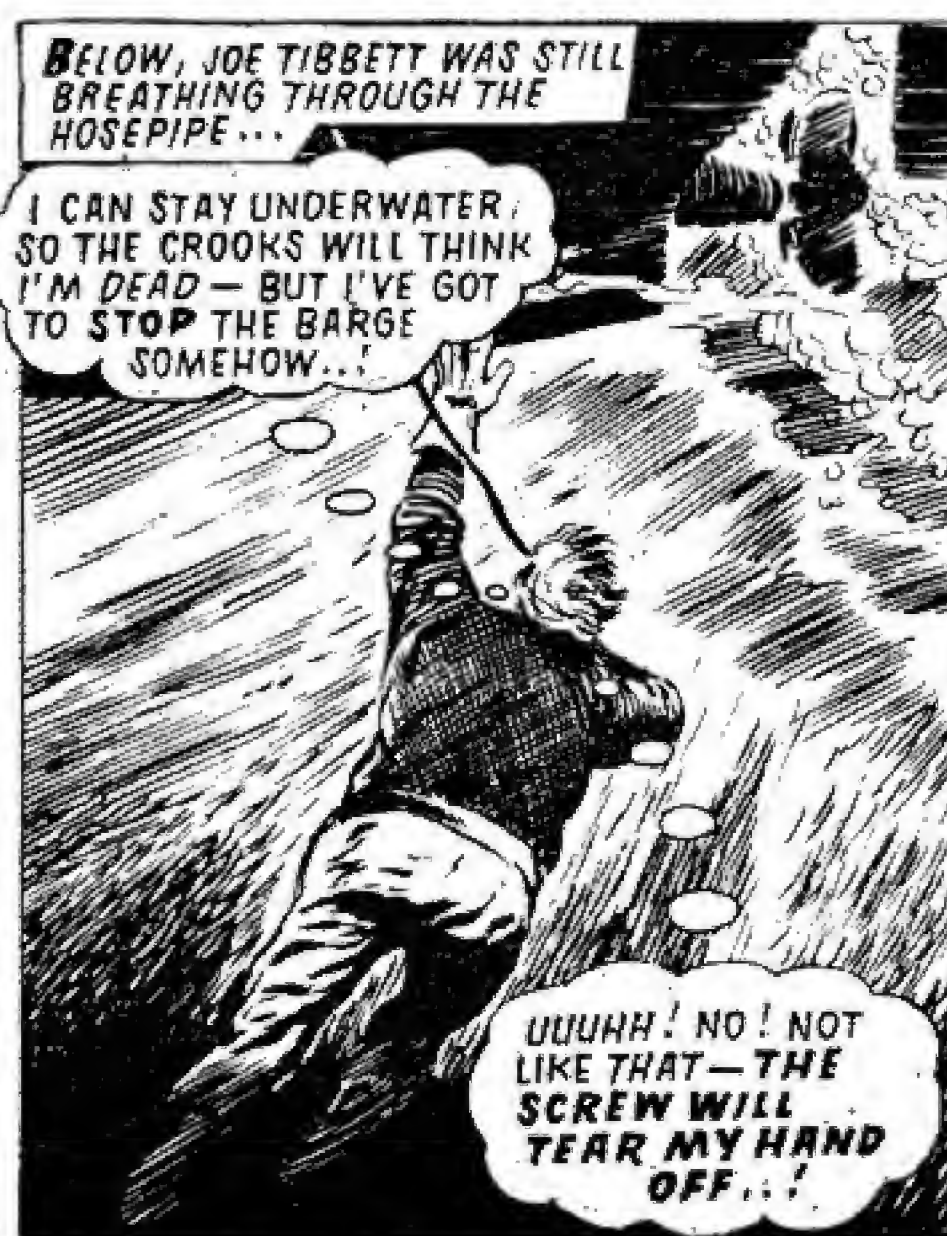
HEY, THIS ISN'T MY GLOVE! I'M WEARING - AND IT'S... FORCING MY HAND TO THE TARPULIN - RIPPING IT OFF!



CONTINUED OVERLEAF...



The Scottish island of Iona was originally called 'I'.





An Austrian in 1900 walked 870 miles from Vienna to Paris on his hands.





# LOOK OUT, SAM—HERE COMES BULLY BATES!

